EXHIBIT 5

		Page 1
	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
	FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
		_
	JOSEPH WOLF, et al,	
	Plaintiffs,	
	Vs. NO. 7:23CV00558	
	DOLLAR GENERAL	
	CORPORATION et al,	
	Defendants.	
		_
	DEPOSITION	
	OF	
	MIA SAVALOJA	
	December 14, 2023	
	REPORTER NOTE: PORTIONS OF THIS TRANSCRIPT MAY	
	BE SUBJECT TO THE PROTECTIVE ORDER ENTERED IN	
	THIS CASE.	
	VERITEXT REPORTING CORPORATION	
	236 Adams Avenue	
	Memphis, TN 38103	
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Page 2

The deposition of MIA SAVALOJA is taken on this, the 14th day of December, 2023, on behalf of the Plaintiffs, pursuant to notice and consent of counsel, beginning at approximately 10:00 a.m., CST, via Zoom videoconference, with Mr. Edwards appearing via zoom from Knoxville, Tennessee; Mr. Merino appearing from North Brunswick, New Jersey, the witness, Ms. Collier and Mr. Taylor appearing from Goodletsville, Tennessee; and Mr. Dominski appearing from Olive Branch, Mississippi.

This deposition is taken pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

All forms and formalities are waived.

Objections are reserved, except as to form of the question, to be disposed of at or before the hearing.

The signature of the witness is waived.

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		Page 4
1	INDEX	
2	Examination by Mr. Edwards, 5,12	
3	EXHIBITS	
4	Exhibit 1, deposition notice, 52,6	
	Exhibit 2, compliance script, 60,4	
5	Exhibit 3, Customer service SOP 88, 86,8	
	Exhibit 4, safety and compliance, 96,14	
6		
	REPORTER NOTE: Exhibits uploaded to Veritext	
7	portal post-deposition by Mr. Edwards.	
8		
9		
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Page 5 1 MIA SAVALOJA, 2 Having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: 3 4 MR. EDWARDS: Anything before we start 5 from the court reporter or the videographer? 6 THE REPORTER: Adam, there is no 7 videographer. 8 MR. EDWARDS: Off the record. 9 (Off-the-record discussion.) 10 EXAMINATION 11 BY MR. EDWARDS: Good morning. Please state your full 12 Ο. name for the record. 13 14 Mia Savaloja. 15 All right, Ms. Savaloja, do you 16 understand that you took an oath earlier this 17 morning that is the same oath as if you were 18 testifying in court? 19 Yes, I understand. 20 Okay. I'm going to ask you a series of Ο. 21 questions today, and the court reporter is going 22 to be recording all of my questions and all of your answers. Do you understand that? 23 2.4 Α. I do.

Page 6

- Q. Okay. So it is also very important that we make a clear record today. So if you could try your best to avoid answers like uh-huh and ug-huh, that will help us to make that clear record. Can we agree to do that?
 - A. Yes, we can agree.

- Q. All right. Also I'm going to try to be as clear as I can with the questions that I ask today, but inevitably I may ask a confusing question. If I do ask a question do you don't understand, rather than you guessing about what I'm asking, I'd rather you just ask me to rephrase it, and I'll be glad to did that. Can we agree to that?
 - A. Yes, we can.
- Q. The flip side of that is if I ask you a question and you give me answer, an I'm going to assume that you understood it. Is that fair?
 - A. That's fair.
- Q. All right. Have you ever given a deposition before?
- A. Yes.
- MR. TAYLOR: Just one second, Adam.

 Before we get started, I wanted to put on the

Page 7 1 record a couple things real quick. 2 The first one just being that this 3 proceeding and the transcripts and the exhibits are governed by a protective order in the case 4 5 and we'll make the appropriate confidentiality 6 designations pursuant that protective order. 7 The second thing, I don't think we need appearances for the record, but if we could just 8 9 make it clear who is here in some form or 10 fashion, that would be great. 11 MR. EDWARDS: I usually leave that up 12 to the court reporter whether he has already got 13 the appearance. 14 Mr. Court Reporter, do you have the 15 appearances? 16 THE REPORTER: No need to. It'll be on 17 the appearance page. 18 (BY MR. EDWARDS) I think I was asking 19 you if you have ever given a deposition before 20 Will you please answer that question? today. 21 Α. Yes, I have. 22 Ο. How many? 2.3 Α. Approximately eight. 2.4 Okay. When was the most recent Q. Wow.

Page 8 1 deposition before today? 2 Α. The most recent deposition before today 3 was approximately ninety days ago. 4 Okay. What type of case? O. It was an EEOC case. 5 6 Was there some sort of employment issue Q. 7 where Dollar General was sued? 8 Α. I believe it was related to a 9 termination issue, yes. 10 Q. Who was that case brought by, do you recall? 11 I recall the name to be Bill Dokum 12 Α. 13 (Phonetic). 14 What was his position at Dollar 15 General? 16 Bill was a district manager. Α. 17 In what state? Q. 18 Α. Oklahoma. 19 Do you have a -- I understand you are Q. 20 not a lawyer, but do you have a high-level 21 understanding of what his allegations were in 22 that case. 23 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2.4 You can answer.

Page 9 I do have a high-level understanding of 1 2 that, yes. 3 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) What your high-level 4 understanding? My high-level understanding is that 5 6 Bill believed he was wrongly terminated due to 7 his age. 8 Okay. Did you appear at the deposition 9 individually or as a corporate representative for Dollar General? 10 11 As a representative for Dollar General. Α. 12 Ο. Was that case venued in Oklahoma? 13 Α. I'm not sure I understand what "venued" 14 I believe, yes, he brought it in means. 15 Oklahoma. 16 Q. Okay. 17 I honestly don't recall that discussion Α. 18 point. 19 Understood. So what is the second-Ο. 20 most-recent deposition you testified in? 21 Α. Oh, gosh, I think prior to that was 22 another employment case, but it had been a 23 couple of years. So I don't have complete 2.4 recall of the details of that one. It was an

Page 10 1 employment case. 2 Do you recall what state that lawsuit Ο. 3 originated in? 4 Α. I don't recall, no. 5 Did you appear as a representative for Ο. 6 Dollar General in that case? 7 I did. Α. Okay. All right. We've talked about 8 9 two out of the eight depositions. Out of those eight, were they all employment-related cases? 10 11 Α. They were. 12 Q. Okay. Yes. 13 Α. 14 Is this the first time have you given a 15 deposition as an employee of Dollar General that 16 didn't involve some sort of employment issue --17 or let me ask it this way -- a case bought by a 18 former employee about employment-related claims? 19 Yes, it is the first time. Α. 20 Okay. Have you been involved in any Ο. 21 way in any other litigation involving pricing 22 discrepancy or overcharges to consumers? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 2.4 You can answer.

Page 11 1 No, I have not. Α. 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) We'll get back to 3 that. Is there anything that would prevent you 4 from testifying truthfully today, medications, 5 other issues going on in life that might make 6 your memory fuzzy or something like that? 7 Α. No, sir. 8 If you need to take a break at any 9 time, please don't hesitate to ask. I would 10 ask, though, that we not take breaks while a 11 question is pending. Can we agree it that? 12 Α. We can. 13 Okay. I suspect you probably won't Ο. 14 need them because I take breaks pretty 15 frequently myself. We'll be okay there, I 16 think. 17 Α. Okay. 18 Are you represented by counsel at this Ο. 19 deposition? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to the form. 21 You can answer. 22 Α. I'm not. 23 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Where are you Ο. 24 sitting for this deposition?

Page 12 I am sitting at Dollar General's 1 2 corporate headquarters. 3 Q. Where at? Goodletsville, Tennessee. 4 Α. 5 Ο. Who is in the room with you currently? Trent Taylor, Kelly Collier. 6 Α. 7 Ο. Anyone else? Α. No, sir. 8 9 O. If that changes throughout the day, if 10 other people come into the room where you are 11 giving your deposition, please let me know. Will you agree to that? 12 13 Α. Yes, sir. 14 Okay. Did you do anything to prepare 15 for your deposition today? 16 To prepare for today's deposition I Α. 17 really just, you know, prepared by going over 18 some of my personal documents related to 19 compliance. 20 Q. By "personal documents," do you mean 21 E-mails? 22 Α. E-mails, yes. 23 Okay. Did you participate in the Ο. 24 gathering of documents responsive to the

Page 13 1 discovery requests in this case? 2 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 3 You can answer. I did not personally participate, no. 4 Α. 5 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. You didn't 6 forward any E-mails or anything of that nature 7 to answer discovery requests? 8 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 9 Α. I did not. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Did you assist in 10 Ο. 11 preparing answers to the written questions or interrogatories in this case? 12 13 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 14 You can answer. 15 Α. I did not. 16 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Other than -- well, 17 first let me ask you this: Do you recall 18 approximately how many documents you reviewed in 19 preparation for your deposition today? 20 I don't. I wasn't keeping track of the Α. 21 number of documents. 22 Do you think it was like more than 0. 23 twenty? 2.4 Α. Possibly in the range of twenty or

Page 14 1 more. 2 Okay. Does that mean your best guess 0. 3 would be somewhere between thirty, thirty or forty documents total? 4 5 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. You can answer. 6 7 Yes. If I had to guess. Α. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Did you select 8 Ο. 9 the documents to review or did someone select 10 the documents for you? 11 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 12 You can answer. 13 Α. I selected the documents. 14 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. What was your 15 criteria for selecting the documents you chose 16 to review for the deposition today? 17 The criteria was based on the topic Α. that we're discussing today. 18 19 Okay. What do you believe to be the 20 topic that we're discussing today? 21 I believe the topic to be New York 22 pricing. 23 Okay. Did you also have some Ο. 2.4 preparation sessions with counsel, either of the

Page 15 two people in the room with you today? 1 2 Α. Yes, we met. 3 Q. For how long roughly? 4 I think it was maybe three hours or so Α. 5 we met. 6 Q. When was that meeting? 7 Yesterday. Α. 8 Okay. Is that Mr. Taylor and Ο. 9 Ms. Collier that you met with? 10 Α. That's correct. 11 Q. Anyone else? 12 Α. No, sir. 13 Did you talk with any employees, Q. 14 supervisors or co-workers of any kind about this deposition? 15 16 Α. No one. 17 Q. Okay. 18 Α. Of any or type, no. 19 Let me make the question a little Q. 20 broader and expand it beyond this deposition. 21 Have you talked with any co-workers about the 22 subject matter of this litigation? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 2.4 You can answer.

Page 16 1 No, sir. Α. 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Have you seen the 3 complaint in this matter? Α. 4 Yes. 5 Ο. Okay. Have you reviewed the allegations in the complaint? 6 7 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. You can answer. 8 9 Α. Yes. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Did any factual 10 Ο. 11 allegations jump out to you as being false when 12 you reviewed the complaint? 13 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 14 Can you go ahead and restate the 15 question for me. 16 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Sure. When you've 17 reviewed the complaint in this case, do you 18 recall if any of the factual allegations jumped 19 out to you as being false. 20 I don't recall. Α. 21 Do you have a general understanding of 22 what the plaintiffs in this case allege that Dollar General did wrong? 23 2.4 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form.

Page 17 1 You can answer. 2 The understanding I have is that the Α. 3 plaintiffs object to pricing overcharges. 4 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Do you agree Ο. 5 that over the past three years or so Dollar General has been dealing with an issue related 6 7 to customer overcharges? 8 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to the form. 9 You can answer. Over the past three years I acknowledge 10 Α. 11 that there have been overcharges. 12 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Have there been 13 overcharges at a rate that is unacceptable to 14 Dollar General, would you agree to that? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 16 You can answer. 17 Α. The overcharges in some situations, 18 yes. 19 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 20 You can answer. 21 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) The way you answered 22 that leads me to believe that you may feel that 23 overcharges in some situations are okay or 24 acceptable. Is that correct?

Page 18 1 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 2 Overcharges are not acceptable to Α. 3 Dollar General any situation. 4 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Why is that? Ο. 5 Why is that is the importance of customer satisfaction and that we are charging 6 7 the correct price at the register. 8 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 9 You can answer. 10 Q. (BY MS. FARID) So if the customer is buying Product X and it is on the shelf for a 11 12 dollar and it rings up at a dollar fifty, you 13 would agree that's unfair to the customer? 14 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 15 You can answer. 16 Α. If the price at the register rings 17 differently than the price at the shelf, that's 18 not acceptable. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Is that unfair 20 to the customer? 21 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 22 You can answer. 23 Α. It is not customer satisfaction, no. 2.4 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) What is your current

Page 19 job title? 1 2 Α. My current job title is senior 3 director, store operations, communication. 4 How long have you had that job title? Ο. 5 Well, for this particular round I have 6 had that job title since May, but at other 7 junctures in my career I've had that same job 8 title but I've had this specific job title since 9 May of this year. 10 So you've been the senior director, 11 store operations, for Dollar General since May 12 of 2023. Is that correct? 13 It is important to add the word Α. 14 "communication." Store operations, 15 communication. 16 Q. Okay. 17 So, yes, I've had that title since May Α. 18 of this year. 19 Okay. Just so the record is clear, by 20 "this year," you mean 2023? 21 Α. 2023, yes. 22 Okay. We may be reading this 23 transcript two years from now and we want to 2.4 make sure we're correct.

Case 7:23-cv-00558-PMH Document 89-6 Filed 01/15/25 Page 21 of 311 Page 20 Understood. Α. What was your job title prior to May of 0. 2023 with Dollar General? My job title prior to May of 2023 was Α. senior director, store operations, communication and store compliance. There was a cough there. Did you say Ο. "and store compliance"? Α. I did, yes. Ο. Okay. So it sounds like -- first let me ask you this: How long did you have -- these titles are getting long. I'm going to try my

- best.
- Α. They are.

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- I'll start again. How long did you have the job title for Dollar General senior director, store operation, communication and store compliance?
- 2017 would have been the start of that job title.
- Ο. Okay. All right. So why, if you know, in May of 2023 did they drop the part of the title that says "store compliance"?

2.4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

Page 21 1 You can answer. 2 It is fairly common in retail companies Α. 3 that there are re-org's, that companies move one function to a different functional area for 4 5 whatever number of reasons, and so it was decided at the end of April that store 6 7 compliance would report into asset protection. 8 (BY MR. EDWARDS) So asset protection is Ο. 9 another department within Dollar General? 10 Asset protection is a department within 11 Dollar General that sits within the overall 12 store operations umbrella. 13 So who is the head of asset protection? O. 14 The head of asset protection is Amelia 15 Kennedy. She is the vice-president of asset 16 protection. 17 An important distinction that I should 18 add there is she is the vice-president of the 19 corporate side. 20

Q. So I guess is her -
(Zoom freeze.)

(Off-the-record discussion.)

MR. EDWARDS: I'll pick up with the same follow-up question I think you missed,

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Page 22 1 Brian. 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So who is the person 3 responsible in asset protection on the field side? 4 Erin Carlisle. 5 Α. Okay. I think that covers everything. 6 Q. 7 So let's go back to when you started in your position of senior director, store operations, 8 9 communication and store compliance in 2017. Are 10 you with me there? 11 Α. I'm with you. 12 Q. Okay. So it sounds like from the time 13 you assumed that job title in 2017 up through 14 May of 2023, this year, that store compliance 15 would have reported to you. Is that accurate? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 17 You can answer. 18 Α. That's accurate. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Then some time O. 20 around May of 2023, before that, Dollar General 21 made the decision that store compliance would 22 now report to asset protection? 2.3 Α. That's correct. Okay. So in May of 2023 you lost part 2.4 Q.

Page 23 1 of your job responsibilities. Is that accurate? 2 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 3 You can answer. In May of 2023 I no longer had store 4 Α. 5 compliance, yes. 6 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Can you tell Q. 7 me, if you know, why that decision was made? 8 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. Asked 9 and answered. 10 You can answer. 11 The decision was really made for Α. 12 efficiencies. Asset protection certainly has a 13 compliance element to it. They've got a large 14 field organization. The store support center 15 side of the organization had also grown. So it 16 made sense to the leadership team to combine the 17 two. 18 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you think that 19 moving store compliance to report to asset 20 protection had anything to do with Dollar 21 General's attempt to try to do a better job at 22 compliance as it relates to pricing accuracy? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2.4 You can answer.

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A. I think the move of store compliance to asset protection was to take advantage of synergies, a larger team, you know, to form a bigger group to look at the big picture.

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Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) But you don't believe that the move for store compliance to start reporting to asset protection had anything to do with pricing inaccuracies?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

- A. I wouldn't say that because the officer level are making those decisions. Details like that wouldn't necessarily be shared with me.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So it may have had something to do with pricing accuracies and it may not, you just didn't know?
- A. Yeah. What I'm saying is I don't know, yeah.
 - Q. Okay. Who do you report to?
 - A. I report to Dan Connow. He is the vice-president of store operations.
 - Q. How many people report to you?
- A. I have four direct reportables.
 - Q. What are their names?

Page 25

- A. Clarice Siegel, S I E G E L, Jillian Kaufman, K A U F M A N, Monica Sullivan, Tony Whitmore, W H I T T E M O R E.
 - Q. Okay. What are their job titles?
- A. Clarice, Jillian and Tony are senior managers of store operations.
- Q. Okay.

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- A. Monica Sullivan is a manager of store operations.
- Q. Are all four of those individuals'
 responsibilities nationwide or are their
 responsibilities limited to a particular region
 or district?
- 14 A. All four of them have nationwide 15 responsibilities.
 - Q. Okay. What is your educational background?
 - A. My educational background is an undergraduate degree from Westminster College in business administration.
 - Q. Okay. Where is that at, Westminster, College?
 - A. Fulton, Missouri.
- Q. So you have a bachelor's degree in

Page 26 business administration? 1 2 Α. Yes, I do. 3 Ο. Okay. Let me ask you this: I was going to ask you, and I still will, about your 4 5 activities and job responsibilities, like a typical workday, but let me ask you this 6 7 question: Since compliance now since May of 8 2023 reports to a different area, are you still 9 since May of 2023 involved in compliance issues 10 at all as they relate to pricing inaccuracy? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 11 12 You can answer. 13 No, sir. Seven months ago that Α. 14 transition occured, and I am not involved in the 15 day-to-day of store compliance. 16 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Since May of 17 this year, 2023, is there a singular person or 18 people that you could point to that are now 19 involved in the day-to-day of store compliance? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 21 You can answer. 22 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Would that be Amelia Ο. 23 and Erin, for example? 2.4 The person I would point to -- the key Α.

Page 27 words there that you mentioned are "day to day." 1 2 So the day to day is managed by a director. Her 3 name is Rebecca O'Brien. 4 Ο. Okay. What is Rebecca O'Brien's job title? 5 Director, store compliance. 6 Α. 7 Do you know how long she has had that Ο. iob title? 8 9 She has had that job title -- let me just think about that for a second here. When 10 11 Rebecca transitioned into the group, it was 12 approximately a year and a half that she has had 13 that job title. 14 Do you know who had that job title 15 before her? 16 Α. I do. The person that had that job 17 title before Rebecca was Maribeth Dedmon. 18 So prior to Rebecca O'Brien, Maribeth 19 Dedmon was director of store compliance? 20 That's correct. Α. 21 Ο. Is Maribeth Dedmon still with Dollar 22 General? 23 Α. She is. What is her job title now, if you know? 2.4 Q.

Page 28 1 Director, global compliance. Α. 2 Ο. So she got a promotion? 3 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 4 You can answer. 5 She didn't get a promotion. Rebecca's 6 predecessor was a director. Maribeth was a 7 director. 8 (BY MR. EDWARDS) I see. 9 Α. That would have been a lateral move for 10 Maribeth when she went over to global 11 compliance. 12 Q. Okay. Before May of 2023 did Rebecca 13 O'Brien report to you? 14 Α. She did. 15 Ο. And was the same true for Maribeth? 16 Α. The same was true, yes. 17 Q. Would you agree that post-epidemic, 18 post-COVID-19, pricing inaccuracy -- that issue kind of came to the forefront for Dollar General 19 20 or became a more important issue for Dollar 21 General? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 23 You can answer. 2.4 Α. Post-COVID there were I would say

Page 29 unprecedented things going on in the pricing 1 2 world for sure. So, you know, that relates to 3 supply chain issues, you know, vendors passing 4 on price increases, et cetera. So coming out of 5 COVID it was an unprecedented time. 6 (BY MR. EDWARDS) So over the last --7 let me ask it this way: In the years following 8 COVID, did you notice an increase in failed 9 government audits related to pricing, for 10 example? 11 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 12 You can answer. 13 I don't know that I would quantify that Α. 14 as plural, but, yes, at a point I did notice 15 that there was an increase. 16 0. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Approximately

- A. Well, I think going back to my comment prior is that in 2022 we can certainly agree or disagree on what the coming-out-of-COVID time frame is, but I think the impact for us was more visible in 2022.
 - Q. What was more visible?

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what year?

A. Things like unprecedented price changes

Page 30 in 2022. 1 2 Ο. Okay. My question was specific to did 3 you notice an increase in pricing inaccuracy in 2022? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 5 6 You can answer. 7 Α. The answer is yes. (BY MR. EDWARDS) I'm going to shift 8 Ο. 9 gears a little bit and we're going to come back 10 to some of these things. Can you explain what 11 the my DG program is? That term exactly, "my DG"? 12 Α. 13 Yeah. Ο. 14 I'm not familiar with what "my DG" is. 15 I'm familiar with "DG me," "DGE." There are 16 lots of DG things. 17 Ο. All right. What I'm referring to is 18 Dollar General's rewards program --19 Oh, okay. Α. 20 -- for its customers. Are you familiar Ο. 21 with that program? 22 I am familiar with programs that are 23 available to customers, things like digital 24 coupons, et cetera.

Page 31 1 Are you aware that Dollar General has 2 an app for its customers? 3 Α. I am. 4 O. Do you have the app on your phone? 5 Α. I do. Okay. Do you remember when you signed 6 Q. 7 up for the app? 8 It has been so long, I do remember when Α. 9 I signed up, but, yes. Do you recall when you sign up for the 10 app or when you register for the program on the 11 app for Dollar General you put in things like 12 13 your E-mail address? 14 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 15 You can answer. 16 Α. Yes. 17 (BY MR. EDWARDS) You put in your Q. address and zip code? 18 19 MR. TAYLOR: Same objection. 20 I remember a form. I think it included Α. 21 address, zip code, things of that nature. 22 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you use the rewards program or IDG app? 23 24 Α. I do. I do.

Page 32 1 Okay. How do you use it? 2 Α. I use it mostly for digital coupons. 3 mean everybody -- there is good offers in there, and they are easy to clip. 4 Okay. Do you know if -- when I went to 5 the app, it appears that you can accumulate 6 7 different things based on your purchase history. 8 That's very high level. Is that your general 9 understanding? 10 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 11 You can answer. 12 Α. That's my general understanding. I 13 believe that's fairly new. But, yes, that is my 14 general understanding. 15 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So if a 16 customer goes in and uses the DG app at 17 purchase, there is something that -- there is a 18 database where Dollar General keeps track of 19 purchase history. Is that reasonable? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 21 You can answer. 22 Α. That's reasonable. 23 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you have any idea Ο. 24 of -- let me back up for a second.

Page 33 1 You would agree with me that many 2 Dollar General customers are repeat purchasers, 3 right? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 5 You can answer. Many Dollar General customers are 6 Α. 7 repeat customers, yes. 8 (BY MR. EDWARDS) You guys, your Ο. 9 marketing department, probably has analysis of 10 those things, right, like what percentage of the 11 customers are repeat purchasers? MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 12 13 Α. Yes. 14 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Have you ever seen any 15 of that data or have any understanding as to 16 what percentage of Dollar General's customers 17 are repeat purchasers? 18 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 19 There is I believe it is quarterly, 20 either quarterly or some regular time in which 21 customer experience information is shared with 22 the director group, you know, from what I 23 remember. What I saw on a slide or that particular data, I would not know. 2.4

Page 34 1 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you recall what 2 that document might be called that would reveal 3 what percentage of customers are repeat 4 purchasers at Dollar General? 5 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 6 Objection, misstates prior testimony. 7 You can answer. Α. I don't. I don't recall the exact name 8 9 of the document. 10 (BY MR. EDWARDS) But you say there is 11 quarterly consumer experience data documents that are distributed at Dollar General? 12 13 Α. Yes. 14 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 15 (BY MR. EDWARDS) What would you call 16 those types of documents yourself? 17 You know, typically at Dollar General Α. we would call that a deck. It would be a PDF or 18 19 a PowerPoint deck in a PDF format. 20 Which department would produce those or 21 create those documents? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2.3 You can answer. 2.4 Α. Marketing.

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Page 35 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Marketing. Okay. there a particular person that you would point to that would probably have the most knowledge about those sorts of decks or PDF's currently? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. Angela Martin. Α. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. What is her job Ο. title? Α. She is a vice-president of marketing. Okay. Would she also be someone you Ο. would point to that would be knowledgeable about the Dollar General reward or coupon program? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. Α. Angela is more on the customer research side, and there is a different marking group that would oversee the reward program.

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Who do you think would oversee that reward program?
- A. I believe the person in charge of that is Michael Chao. That's spelled C H A O.
- MR. EDWARDS: We've been going a little under an hour.

Page 36 1 (Brief recess.) 2 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Ms. Savaloja -- did I Ο. come close? 3 Savaloja (Sav-ah-la). 4 Α. 5 Ο. Savaloja? Savaloja. 6 Α. 7 I hope you will forgive me if I call Ο. you "Mia." I'm not trying to be disrespectful. 8 9 I think that maybe that might be more respectful 10 than butchering your last name, as I'm apt to 11 do. Okay. I want to follow up with a few 12 13 questions. First let me ask you, you didn't 14 discuss the subject of your deposition during 15 the break with counsel, I presume, correct? 16 Α. No, sir. 17 Okay. You have "communication" in your Ο. 18 title, and you have had it since 2007, correct? 19 That's not correct. 20 I'm missing something. I'm sorry. Ο. 21 Since 2017. That might be where we're off. 22 Since 2017 I think we confirmed earlier 23 that your title senior is director, store 24 operation, communication. So "communication"

has been in your job title since 2017?

- A. We went back as far as 2017, but communication has been in my title since 2015.
- Q. Okay. Can you explain to me what the "communications" part of your title involves.
- A. Sure. The "communications" part of my title involves store operations communications to our stores and store operations communications to our field teams.
- Q. When you say "field teams," what do you mean?
- A. "Field teams" is inclusive of our district managers, our regional directors, our division vice-presidents and our senior vice-presidents of operations.
- Q. Okay. Would that include communication to the stores and field teams related to price changes?
 - MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
 You can answer.
 - A. It would.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So I think we've received testimony already from others related to the decision to make a price change on

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Page 38 products. What I'm interested in is the flow 1 2 from after the decision to make a price change 3 on a particular product is made down to the store level. Can you walk me through those 4 5 steps? 6 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 7 You can answer? Α. I can. 8 9 O. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. 10 Α. The steps I will walk you through are 11 the steps that are in place today. Once that decision -- there is a weekly -- let me back up 12 13 here a little bit by talking about the method of 14 which the communication is delivered. 15 Communication is delivered to stores 16 via a system that we call START that is 17 essentially a task management system. That is 18 the vehicle. So we have a number of pricing 19 activities that get communicated to stores as a 20 task in START. 21 Q. Does this happen weekly? 22 Α. This happens weekly, yes. 23 Is this every Tuesday? Ο. 2.4 Α. The communication is actionable on

Tuesday. The communication will be visible to the store prior to that.

Q. Okay. Is there a particular day when the communication for the price change is conveyed from the START management system?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

A. The particular -- think it is important to provide a little bit of context that the START communication, for example, for Tuesdays shelf label changes simply communicates that there will be shelf labels and the steps to go print them.

So I as a store manager, you know, a member of the store manager team, don't get information in that START communication about a quantity, but, yes, it is visible, and it tells me I need to be sure to print them and how to print them.

Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. It sounds like every Tuesday is when the actual labels should be printed for the week.

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

Page 40 1 That's correct. Α. 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So now back up and 3 tell me what is the process for the price change at the POS level or at the register? 4 5 The price change process at the register is not my area. 6 7 And whose area is that? Ο. Α. That is Brian Hauck's team. 8 9 O. So your area deals with communication 10 of the price change to the store as it relates 11 to changes on the shelf --12 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 13 You can answer. 14 (BY MR. EDWARDS) -- and not at the Ο. 15 register? 16 Α. That's correct. 17 Q. Okay. I'd just add that that communicates 18 19 that -- the communication from my team 20 communicates the process. We have a process, 21 and it communicates the process for printing 22 those labels. 23 Okay. I'm assuming the process that is Ο. 24 in place today was the same back in -- a month

Page 41 before today's date, so say mid-November of this 1 2 year, correct? 3 Α. Correct. 4 Okay. Let's go back a month, and I Ο. 5 want you to assume that the decision has been 6 made by Dollar General that a Gillette razor 7 currently priced at twelve dollars is going to 8 be increased to \$14.00. Okay? 9 Α. Okay. 10 Q. Do you follow that hypothetical? 11 Α. Yes. 12 Q. Take me through the steps to where that 13 price increase is communicated to the store 14 level. 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 You can answer. 17 Α. The steps are what we just went over, 18 that there is a task in the task management 19 system that articulates the process for printing 20 labels on Tuesday. 21 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. 22 If I'm the store manager or a delegate Α. 23 of the store manager I'm responsible for signing 2.4 off on that I completed that. The price

changes themselves will be visible when the store prints them.

Q. I see. So you rely on the individual store managers to check their tasks at least every Tuesday, determine if there are new labels that need to be printed and to timely print those labels and make the changes on the shelf?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

- A. Yes. That's correct. That task directs them to do so.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. If they -- if the store is late in printing labels reflecting price changes, that's a problem, right?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

- A. If the store is late in printing price changes, you know, and "late" is a general term, if it is late, then the price at the register will be different than the price at the shelf.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. I know you told me this is Brian Hauck's team as far as making the price change at the point of sale at the register level, but is it generally the case

Page 43 1 that the price change won't hit the register 2 until some time after that Tuesday when the 3 labels are supposed to be printed and changed? Does it work that way? 4 5 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 6 You can answer. 7 The price changes are effective on Α. Tuesday morning. 8 9 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) I see. Go back to my 10 Gillette razor example. That price increase 11 from \$12.00 to 14.00, it is going to be sent 12 electronically or via software to increase at 13 the register on Tuesday morning, correct? 14 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 15 You can answer. 16 Α. Correct. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So if the store is 17 0. 18 late in printing labels for that Gillette and 19 it -- let's say they are one week late, then 20 there will be a one-week period where the 21 customer thinks that they are buying a razor for 22 \$12.00 and it will ring up for 14.00. Is that 23 fair? 2.4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

Page 44 1 You can answer. 2 In the scenario that you present, if Α. the store doesn't print a label for a week, then 3 that is correct. 4 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Or if they print the 5 6 label for a week but it doesn't make to the 7 shelf, same thing, right? 8 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 9 You can answer. 10 Α. That's correct. 11 (BY MR. EDWARDS) When the label is Ο. 12 printed, there is a document that Dollar General 13 generates showing that that document has been 14 printed or that that label with the price change 15 has been printed, correct? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 17 You can answer. 18 I wouldn't phrase it like that, no. 19 The way it was phrased makes it sound like there 20 is a document that prints that says whether or 21 not you printed your price changes. And that is 22 not the case. 23 (BY MR. EDWARDS) That's fair. Let me 24 rephrase it.

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- Q. I have seen from the documents that I have reviewed that Dollar General keeps track of whether labels are printed in a timely fashion. Would you agree with that?
- A. Dollar General does keep track whether or not the labels have been printed.
- Q. Right. For accountability reasons, right?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

- A. Accountability does play into it, yes.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. What is -- just explain to me how that happens. How does Dollar General keep track of what labels are printed either on time or late as it relates to price changes in the store?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

A. What I could explain or share with you -- I'm not the subject matter from my team's perspective on how that happens systemically, so very much in layman's store operations terms the data can be captured whether or not the store

Page 46 1 printed the batch, and that data can be turned 2 into a report. 3 0. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. What are those reports called? Do you know? Or what do you 4 call them? 5 6 The title of that report is something 7 like "core label report" or it might say 8 "Tuesday price changes." I don't have a recall exactly what the title of the report is. 9 10 I've seen that phrase in the documents, 11 "core label report." "Core label report" 12 indicates what? I'm referring to the word "core." 13 14 "Core," there are essentially --15 without going into a lot of detail, "core" is an 16 item that resides in a plan-o-gram and gets 17 replenished. 18 As to what other types of products? 19 As opposed to a seasonal item. So 20 Christmas trees. 21 Q. I've got you. Okay. Are there other 22 types of items? We've got seasonal items. 23 We've got core items. Is there another 24 category?

- A. There are items that our vendors bring in in our coolers. DSD is what it is referred to as.
 - Q. Do you know what that stands for, DSD?
 - A. Drop-ship delivery.

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- Q. Okay. Those are items that vendors bring in that are not expected to be replenished. How do those differ from core products?
- A. They differ from core products in that drivers bring them in.
- Q. And with core products, they are just shipped?
- A. There is a supply chain in which they are shipped from distribution centers, yes.
- Q. Okay. Are the DSD products regularly replaced and replenished like core products?
 - A. DSD products are replenished weekly.
- Q. Okay. Is there a different mechanism for price changes for DSD products?
 - A. There is not.
- Q. Okay. So a price increase for a DSD product would happen the same way as a core product?

Page 48 1 Α. Yes. 2 Ο. Okay. What about a seasonal product, 3 would a price change for a seasonal product 4 happen the same way as a price change for a core 5 or DSD product? 6 It would not happen the same way. Α. 7 Is it fair to say that if you are Ο. talking about seasonal products, there is 8 9 generally not going to be a price increase --10 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 11 You can answer. 12 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) -- or is that wrong? 13 That's fair to say. Α. 14 Ο. Okay. 15 Α. "General" is the key word there. 16 certainly could be. 17 Q. Right. Seasonal products come in, and 18 they typically -- the stores will typically sell 19 those products until the end of the season until 20 they are gone and then replenish them the next 21 season. Is that the way that works? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 23 You can answer. 2.4 That's an overview of how it works, Α.

Page 49 1 yes. 2 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Are there any other Ο. 3 categories of products other than core products, seasonal products and DSD? 4 5 There is one additional category. That 6 is called scan-based trade. It is referred to 7 as SBT. What does that refer to? 8 Ο. 9 Α. That refers to Dollar General does not 10 keep a perpetual inventory on that, it is 11 vendor-owned inventory, and as it goes through 12 the register, then Dollar General would be invoiced for the items sold. 13 14 All right. So price -- give me an 15 example of those types of products. 16 Α. Something like a cell phone accessory. 17 Okay. So a vendor drops off a number 0. 18 of cell phone accessories, and if Dollar General 19 sells one, they pay the vendor a pre-agreed-upon 20 amount? 21 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 22 You can answer. 23 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is that the way it O. 2.4 works?

Page 50 1 It is typically not a vendor delivering 2 it. It is typically a drop-ship. 3 Q. Okay. And it would arrive that way. But, 4 5 yes, that's directionally how it works. 6 Okay. Other than cell phone 7 accessories, can you think of other examples of 8 DSD type products? 9 A. Cell phone is SBT. Do you want examples of DSD or SBT? 10 11 0. Let's start with DSD. I'm sorry. Last 12 one was SBT? 13 Α. SBT. 14 These analogies are getting a little Ο. 15 confusing. Yes, other examples beyond the 16 accessories, cell phone accessories. 17 Sure. Movies, DVD movies. Α. 18 Ο. Okay. 19 MR. TAYLOR: Just so I'm clear. That's 20 for SBT? It isn't clear to me if it is SBT or 21 DSD. 22 THE WITNESS: I thought I was answering 23 was another SBT item. The answer to that was 24 DVD movies.

Page 51 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Yes. Any other SBT items other than DVD movies and cell phone accessories? Merchandising is not my area. So I'm not able to provide an exhaustive list, just examples I'm aware of. Okay. Sitting here today you are not Ο. able to give other examples of SBT products? Α. The two examples I gave you were movies, cell phone accessories. Those are the biggest categories. There is also a CD category. Outside of that, no, I'm not familiar with their assortment details. Let's go ahead and mark our first exhibit, if I can get back to ExhibitShare. Can you see what we've marked as Exhibit 1? I cannot view the exhibit. Α.

- Q. Did you go to the marked-exhibit folder?
 - A. I did not.
 - Q. Try in there. See if it is in there.
- 22 A. All right. I can see it.
- Q. I've marked as Exhibit 1 the notice of deposition that you are appearing under today.

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Page 52 Do you see that? 1 2 Α. I see that. 3 Q. Have you seen that before today? I have not seen that before today. 4 Α. 5 MR. EDWARDS: All right. So I'm just introducing this for the record. 6 7 (The above-mentioned document was marked as Exhibit 1.) 8 9 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) I think we agreed 10 earlier that it is important to Dollar General 11 that its customers are not charged more than the 12 advertised shelf price, correct? 13 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 14 You can answer. 15 Α. Dollar General's customers should not 16 be charged more than the shelf price. 17 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you agree that many customers rely on the advertised shelf price in 18 19 their purchase decisions? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 21 You can answer. 22 Α. As a customer, you know, you are 23 looking at the shelf label to determine -- to 2.4 tell you what you are going to pay at the

Page 53 1 register. 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. I just want to 3 make sure it is not your thought that a customer 4 would be unreasonable to rely on the shelf price 5 in trying to determine how much the product is 6 going to cost. 7 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. 8 9 Α. As a customer you are going to look to 10 that shelf label for what you are going to pay 11 at the register. 12 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Would you agree 13 that the typical Dollar General customer 14 attaches importance to the price of the product? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 You can answer. 17 I would offer that any customer would Α. 18 want to know the price of a product and what it 19 was going to ring at the register. 20 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Ο. 21 Dollar General included. 22 Pricing compliance is central to Dollar 23 General's mission. Is that a statement that you

agree with?

Page 54 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 1 2 You can answer. 3 Α. Compliance is an important aspect, but when -- you know, qualify for me when you say 4 "Dollar General's mission." Yes, compliance is 5 6 important. 7 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Let me back up a little bit. At a high level what is Dollar 8 9 General's mission, if you know? 10 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 11 You can answer. Serving others. 12 Α. 13 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you agree that O. 14 every day Dollar General's customers walk into 15 stores with a fixed amount of money to spend? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 17 You can answer. 18 Dollar General's customers come from a 19 wide variety of backgrounds. So I wouldn't 20 necessarily characterize them in one way or 21 another that they all have a fixed amount of 22 money to spend. 2.3 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Sure. I'm not -- I'm 2.4 certainly not asking you about each and every

Page 55 customer that comes into a Dollar General store. 1 2 I'm just wondering if you would agree that there 3 are many Dollar General customers that walk in 4 to a Dollar General with a fixed amount of money 5 to spend. 6 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 7 Objection, asked and answered. 8 You can answer it again. 9 Α. There are Dollar General customers that 10 are on a fixed income and have a fixed amount of 11 money they can spend. There are those 12 customers. 13 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you have any idea 14 what the average income is for the average 15 Dollar General customer? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 17 You can answer. 18 Α. I don't. Yeah, I don't. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you agree that 20 often Dollar General customers might try to keep 21 track of how they are spending -- how much they 22 are spending as they walk through the store? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2.4 You can answer.

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Page 56 I think there are customers in every walk of life no matter where they are shopping that are keeping track of what they are spending. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. And when the total price at the register is more than the customer thought based on the shelf prices, that customer feels humiliated. Would you agree with that statement? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) It would be reasonable for that customer to feel humiliated? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. I think there are a number of emotions Α. that a customer could experience. Humiliated could be one of them. (BY MR. EDWARDS) If it is overcharging at the register, that's Dollar General's fault? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer.

the price does not match, the register and the

If it is overcharging at the register,

Page 57 shelf label don't match, then that is 1 2 overcharging if it is more than the amount of the shelf label. (BY MR. EDWARDS) And that's Dollar 4 General's fault, right? 5 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 6 7 You can answer. Α. If the shelf label is not placed, then 8 9 that is a miss on that store's part, yes. 10 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Are there examples 11 that you can think of where the price at the 12 register is more than the advised price on the 13 shelf where it is the customer's fault and not 14 Dollar General? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 You can answer. 17 It is not the customer's fault. Α. 18 MR. EDWARDS: Let's go ahead and mark 19 Exhibit 2. I actually haven't introduced it 20 yet. I'm working on that. 21 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Before I introduce 22 Exhibit 2 and ask you about it, I have seen the 23 name Connie Droge in various E-mails, many of 24 which related to pricing inaccuracy.

Page 58 1 Α. Okay. 2 Ο. Did you work with Donnie Droge? Α. I worked with Connie Droge. 4 For how long? Ο. I worked for Connie as long as she was 5 Α. 6 with Dollar General. I think that would have 7 been approximately -- this is just an 8 approximation -- for some like five years. As 9 long as Connie's tenure, as long as she was 10 here. All right. Was she in a different 11 Ο. department? 12 13 Connie started out in the field, so 14 operations the entire time but at a different 15 location. 16 Do you recall what her job title was when she left Dollar General? 17 18 Α. Senior Vise president. 19 Of a particular department or just seen 20 juror vice-president? 21 Senior vice-president. The company is 22 divided into two territories. She is senior vice-president of what we would refer to as the 23 2.4 South, which would not include New York.

Page 59 1 Okay. Do you know why Connie Droge 2 left Dollar General? 3 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 4 You can answer. Connie received a job offer for an 5 6 opportunity as an executive vice-president, 7 which was a promotion for Connie, at a different 8 company. 9 O. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is that Burlington? 10 Α. It is. 11 Do you still stay in touch with Connie? 0. I have not stayed in touch with Connie. 12 Α. 13 Do you feel like Connie was good at her Ο. 14 job? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 You can answer. 17 "Feel" is not normally a word in my Α. 18 lexicon to be honest with you. I'm a thinker, 19 not a feeler. 20 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you have an opinion 21 whether Connie was good at her job at Dollar 22 General? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2.4 You can answer.

A. There were aspects of Connie that she performed very well.

MR. EDWARDS: I'm adding an exhibit sticker and now introducing Exhibit 2 -
(The above-mentioned document was

marked as Exhibit 2.)

exhibit --

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) -- which you should now be able to view if you refresh your marked
- A. Yes, I see the little wheel here. It should be here shortly.

MR. TAYLOR: Adam, let me ask you a quick question about this. Do you know whether this was part of a larger document or an E-mail?

MR. EDWARDS: Do I know if this was part of a larger document or E-mail? Sitting here today I do not, Trent.

MR. TAYLOR: Okay.

MR. EDWARDS: I will tell you that the documents, the way they were produced, there were sometimes slides were part of E-mails, sometimes they weren't. There were some slides or spreadsheets that were produced multiple times in different things. There were E-mails

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Page 61 that were produced and then produced again in 1 2 the part of a larger thread. 3 So I don't know whether this one was part of a -- I think that this encompasses all 4 5 of what appears to be a store compliance slide that Mia prepared or co-prepared from beginning 6 7 to end. I'll say that. 8 MR. TAYLOR: I'll object to that 9 characterization. You can ask her that question, though. 10 11 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. 12 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So can you tell me 13 what that is, ma'am? 14 This is a version of a script that was 15 presented at a compliance training for our 16 regional directors. 17 Okay. Did you present using this Ο. 18 script? 19 Well, the script that you are showing 20 is a version of the script. It is not the final 21 version. 22 Okay. Do you know -- is this a 23 document that you reviewed in preparation for 24 your deposition today?

Page 62 1 I did review this presentation, yes. 2 Okay. How are you quickly able to Ο. 3 determine that this document is different than the one that you reviewed? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Wait a second. Misstates 5 prior testimony. Objection to the form. 6 7 You can answer. If you see the name Rebecca O'Brien --8 Α. 9 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Uh-huh. 10 Α. -- Rebecca did not co-present. There 11 were multiple iterations of this document. 12 Rebecca was not a presenter of this document. Who drafted this document? 13 Ο. 14 The original drafts were drafted by 15 myself, by Rebecca. Eventually there was a 16 change in plans and Rebecca did not 17 co-facilitate. There was a different 18 co-facilitator. 19 Do you know why Dollar General would 20 have kept this version of the document? 21 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 22 You can answer. 23 (BY MR. EDWARDS) It sounds like you are Ο. 2.4 telling me this version of the store compliance

document wasn't actually used. Is that right?

A. I really -- when you are preparing for a presentation in front of, you know, an audience like we were, there are multiple iterations. Then there are times that right before the presentation happens there are more changes.

So in this instance those changes -there were additional changes, and there was a
different presenter introduced into the
presentation and Rebecca did not present.

Q. I see. Is it fair, though, to assume that much of the content from this version was used when you presented this presentation?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Or do you feel like it was whole-sale-changed before the presentation was made?

MR. TAYLOR: Same objection.

A. The version that we're looking at that has Rebecca's name on it, it may not have been the final version because we went through multiple rehearsals and changes were made, but I

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Page 64 1 would have to read the entire thing. 2 Let's go down to -- I'll ask you about 3 specific statements within this document. Okay? 4 Α. Sure. 5 You see under the paragraph titled Ο. "Slide 5", the last full sentence of the first 6 7 paragraph that states "One thing is clear," do you see that? 8 9 Α. I do. 10 Q. Could you read that sentence, please. 11 "One thing is clear here. When we're Α. 12 out of compliance, we let our customer down." 13 O. Okay. Do you agree with that 14 statement? 15 When our prices don't match at the 16 shelf, that's not satisfying the customer, and, 17 yes, we have let our customer down if we're not 18 satisfying the customer. 19 Do you recall if you drafted this 20 section under Slide 5 yourself or somebody else 21 helped to draft that content? 22 As the -- as we got closer to the 23 presentation, there was an additional -- we

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changed presenters. So, yes, there were other

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Page 65 1 people involved. 2 Ο. I'm just asking you do you think that 3 that is something that you wrote? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 5 You can answer. (BY MR. EDWARDS) the line that we just 6 Q. 7 read. That particular line? 8 Α. 9 Ο. Yes. 10 Α. Yes, I wrote that specific line. 11 Then the next sentence after Okay. Ο. 12 that, the second piece that starts with 13 "Compliance is central," do you see that? 14 Α. I do. 15 0. Would you read that, please. 16 Α. "So why is compliance important? It is 17 not to be green on a report. Compliance is central to our mission and the store 18 19 experience." 20 Is that something that you wrote? Ο. 21 Α. That was something that I collaborated 22 on with my co-presenter as we were going through 23 the script towards the end, towards show time. 2.4 Q. Do you agree that compliance is central

Page 66 1 to the dollar general customer experience? 2 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 3 You can answer. Our customers aren't satisfied if our 4 Α. 5 prices aren't correct at the shelf. So we're not serving them well if we don't have accurate 6 7 pricing. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Do you see 8 9 under Slide 8, the last bullet point that starts 10 with "As prices change"? 11 The last bullet point under Slide 8? 12 Q. It is actually the last bullet point on 13 that page. 14 On that page? Α. 15 Ο. Yes. 16 Α. I've got it. Yes, I see it. 17 Q. Could you read that bullet point into 18 the record, please. 19 "As prices change, it is necessary that 20 we make those changes and ensure the prices on 21 the shelf match what is wrung up at the 22 register. Stores must be priced correctly on 23 the shelf every day on every item." 2.4 Q. Did you write that?

Page 67 I did. 1 Α. 2 Ο. Why did you put the word "must" in all 3 caps? 4 Well, when you are making -- when I was Α. making -- I can't remember if Zach or I 5 6 presented this, the upper case simply means you 7 are just going to stress that. As it says, stores must be priced correctly every day on 8 9 every item. 10 Then on the next page -- I'll give you 11 a reference. There is things called Bates 12 numbers on the bottom right-hand of the page. 13 Α. Yes. 14 And I'm now on 0021653. Ο. 15 Α. Okay. 16 Q. The first bullet point that starts with 17 "Think about our mission," do you see that? 18 Α. I do. 19 Could you read that bullet point into Ο. 20 the record, please. 21 Α. "Think about our mission and who we are 22 for a moment. Customers rely on DG to stretch 23 their dollar. The shape of our logo was 24 designed to symbolize the stretching of a

Page 68 dollar." 1 2 Q. All right. The next bullet point, 3 could you read that, please. 4 "Every day customers walk into stores Α. 5 with a fixed amount of money to spend. might walk in with a \$20 bill that she has 6 7 worked very hard for." 8 Okay. Did you write those bullet Ο. 9 points? 10 Α. I did not write those bullet point. 11 Ο. Do you disagree with any of those 12 statements you just read? 13 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 14 You can answer. 15 This was a collaboration with my 16 co-presenter in order to -- you know, in order 17 to get a point across. I think words like 18 "might walk in," you know -- I would agree with 19 the overall theme of what is being said. 20 But you don't have a specific Ο. 21 recollection of I struck this or I struck that 22 before I gave the presentation? That's what I'm 23 asking. 2.4 Α. Well, we were co-facilitating. So my

presentation partner had parts of this and actually had those bullet points as speaking points. So this is something that, you know, was part of -- the script was part of his script.

Q. It sounds like you are trying to give an example of what might happen when prices are inaccurate here, is that right, big picture?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

- A. Yes, we're trying to paint an example here.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Could you read the next two bullet points, please, starting with "She was got coupons.
- A. "She was got coupons and a circular and she is on a mission to get the most out of the \$20.00 to provide for her family. She is keeping track in her head as she shops the aisles. Show she knows how much tax is going to add mand as she gets to the register, knowing she did the best she could for her family, her total is going to be somewhere between 19.50 and \$20.00."

Q. The next two, please.

- A. "And it is 21.35. And now she is deciding which item that she picked out for her family won't be coming home with her today and now her friend from church is in line behind her watching her make this choice."
 - Q. The next bullet point, please.
- A. "She is mad. She is humiliated, and it is our fault. Pricing accuracy isn't just to ensure that we avoid fines or other related issues, it is to ensure prices are accurate for our customers. If you leave this session and send a message to your store managers that they need to be priced accurately to avoid fines and the team isn't going to" -- sorry -- "the team isn't going to rally behind you and they have no reason to, we must ensure that everyone understands that pricing accuracy is for our customers and our communities. That's why pricing accuracy should matter to every single employee at Dollar General."
- Q. Okay. So it sounds like in this portion of your presentation you are trying to emphasize that avoiding overcharging is not just

Page 71 something that should be done to avoid fines 1 2 from government audits but you owe it to your customers. 3 Is that fair? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 5 You can answer. It is important to customer 6 Α. 7 satisfaction. 8 (BY MR. EDWARDS) It is important to 9 customers and to the communities Dollar General 10 serves, right? 11 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 12 You can answer. 13 It is important to the customers who Α. 14 are part of our communities. 15 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Do you disagree 16 with any of the statements you just read? 17 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 18 You can answer. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Feel free to go back O. 20 and look at Exhibit 2 if you need to refresh. 21 Α. Yeah, that's what I'm going to do here. 22 I don't disagree with the statements that were 23 written by my co-presenter. 2.4 Q. Okay. Then under Slide 9 it talks

Page 72 1 about four specific things that make the 2 difference in terms of pricing accuracy. Do you 3 see that? I do. 4 Α. 5 Okay. The first one is "Accurate pricing starts with core shelf labels." Do you 6 7 see that? Α. I do. 8 9 O. Does that refer to what we talked to 10 earlier, that accurate pricing starts with, you 11 know, the timely printing of these labels every Tuesday? 12 13 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 14 You can answer. 15 That refers to the Tuesday activity 16 that we have talked about earlier in our 17 conversation, yes. 18 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. The last 19 sentence there states "Stores must reach out to 20 ERC with any printer issues, and, if not 21 resolved, please get involved to ensure stores 22 have a working printer." Do you see that? 23 Α. I do. 24 Are there instances where store Q.

Page 73 employees have advised that their printers 1 2 didn't work? 3 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 4 You can answer. Well, there are instances in which 5 printers break down, and the employee response 6 7 center is there to support either the repair or whatever action needs to happen next to ensure 8 9 that the printer is working. 10 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Right. I'm just 11 curious why you felt it important to point out that stores must reach out to ERC with printer 12 13 issues since that seems pretty obvious that if 14 the printer is broken, you need to reach out and 15 get that addressed quickly, right? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 17 You can answer. 18 Α. What I think about the audience that we 19 were talking to is, you know, that was a 20 leadership audience, and so that line is 21 reinforced that stores need it reach out for 22 help. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Who is the audience? 2.3 Ο. 2.4 The audience for this particular script Α.

Page 74 were the regional directors, the division vice-1 2 presidents. 3 Q. Okay. When was this presentation 4 given? This particular presentation was given 5 6 I believe it was around mid-January of this 7 year. Of this year? 8 Ο. 9 Α. Yes. So this document, Exhibit 2, was 10 Q. 11 probably prepared shortly before the 12 presentation in January of this year? 13 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 14 You can answer. 15 Α. I believe so. 16 Q. Okay. The second specific thing that 17 is pointed out here with regard to ensuring 18 pricing accuracy is the MAG set. Do you see 19 that? 20 I do. Α. 21 Q. "The MAG end caps and G sections all 22 have shelf pricing that come pre-printed with 23 What does MAG stand for? MAG." 2.4 Α. Monthly activity guide.

Page 75 Okay. Monthly activity guide end caps 1 2 in G section, are those core products? 3 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. 4 5 Those are non-core products. Α. (BY MR. EDWARDS) How are they different 6 Q. 7 from core products? They are not replenished as part of a 8 Α. 9 plan-o-gram. 10 Ο. Could this be seasonal? 11 Let's take those two and just talk 12 about them separately. When we say G sections, 13 that typically is going to be seasonal. 14 Ο. Okav. 15 Seasonal packaging is typically 16 pre-priced. Within a G section we certainly 17 could have to install some labels but generally 18 not for seasonal because for the most part it 19 comes pre-priced. 20 When you say "pre-priced" -- just let Ο. 21 me jump in. When you say "pre-priced," I've got 22 my box of 100 LED Christmas lights and the price 23 I'm going to pay is right there on the box? 2.4 Α. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay.

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- A. That's right. The end caps work a little bit differently. End caps are, again, as I said earlier, they are what we will say temporary. Their home is temporary. They are going to be on display for a month. So the end caps will come in shelf labels so that when that product is being set on the end cap, that it can also be priced. That doesn't mean that there isn't some pre-priced product on the end cap. There could be. But think of it is as a monthly feature.
 - Q. Okay. What does it mean when you say "To help maintain accuracy, end caps in G sections must be set on time"? Help me understand that.
 - A. So operationally when we're doing floor sets we want to ensure that we're on the clock when that is supposed to be on the clock.

 Really the main reason is for sales. If you are setting Christmas, you want Christmas to set on time. In addition to that, when it sets, then it should have the price labels with it.
 - Q. Okay. So are you just referring -- I'm

Page 77 1 trying to figure out how this relates to pricing 2 accuracy because the next statement you make 3 there is "If not set on time, stores are going to be out of compliance." 4 So if those labels related to the 5 6 display are not set on time, then we will be out 7 of compliance because either the end cap won't 8 have labels, or, if the labels haven't changed 9 out, then they could have incorrect labels. 10 Okay. I think I understand. Plan-o-11 grams, that's the third specific thing that is pointed out here to address pricing accuracy. 12 13 Do you see that? 14 I do. Α. 15 Okay. It states "Like MAG, plan-o-gram 16 resets must be completed on time, "exclamation 17 point. Did I read that right? 18 Α. I did. 19 Give me an example of how setting a --20 failing to complete a plan-o-gram reset on time 21 could result in an overcharge. 22 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 23 You can answer.

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Let's walk through an example of

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Α.

cookies and crackers. So a cookies and crackers plan-o-gram, let's say that resets in the month of March.

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay.
- A. As part of the plan-o-gram process, the buyer -- there are changes. The buyer can make changes. So operationally when we get the plan-o-gram packet at store level, there is a schematic of what goes where and there are price labels. So in the scenario where that plan-o-gram is due to be active by Friday the 5th and it is not set, then pricing on the shelf could be incorrect.
- Q. Because when the plan-o-gram is -- let me ask you this: When a plan-o-gram reset is received by the store, does that mean that reset hits the POS or the register at that time?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

A. It does not. At every other week stores receive a fulfillment kit. Within that fulfillment kit are going to be your MAG labels, your MAG book and your plan-o-grams. Nothing is going to be open up the kit and you have to set

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- it right now. It all has a date on it.
- Q. Okay.

- A. So it will have a set date, a set-by date. Those prices will be effective on the set-by date.
- Q. So let's use your example. We get a plan-o-gram reset for crackers. And the reset is supposed to take place on March 1st of 2024. Are you telling me that if on the store level the store waits until March 15th to set that plan-o-gram, then that's going to be fourteen or fifteen days where the product pricing could be inaccurate?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

- A. Some of the product in that plan-o-gram could be inaccurate, yes.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So with the date on the plan-o-gram, the date of the plan-o-gram reset is the date the price changes to comply with the plan-o-gram at the register?
- A. The label on the packet is set by date, and on that set-by date, that's when the prices are active at the register.

Page 80 1 I see. Okay. That's why it is 2 important that the plan-o-gram be set on the 3 correct date? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 5 You can answer. 6 Α. Yes. 7 (BY MR. EDWARDS) I think I understand. Ο. Lastly, "AD and TPR signs" -- is that ads 8 Okav. 9 like advertisements? 10 Α. Yes. 11 Ο. And what are TPR's? 12 Α. Temporary price reduction. 13 Okay it says "When you walk into a O. 14 store, you can tell right away whether the ad 15 signs are up or not." Explain what that means. 16 Can I tell that or is that something you can 17 tell? 18 I think both, honestly, because Dollar 19 General does a great job at offering a lot of 20 discounts to our customers in the weekly ad. 21 Now, if I'm looking at that through a 22 district manager's eyes, which is a much more 23 trained eye, then when I walk in the store, as I 24 glance around the perimeter or through aisles, I

Page 81 1 should see ad signs. 2 Ο. Okay. All right. I think I 3 understand. Let's go to Slide 10. Could you read the first bullet point, please. 4 "We have it" -- sorry. The bullet 5 point is "As mentioned earlier, accurate pricing 6 7 is the law. That's why we have SOP's and processes in place to help stores maintain 8 9 accurate pricing." 10 Did you write that statement? 11 I don't recall that I wrote that Α. 12 statement, no. 13 Okay. Do you agree that the law Ο. 14 requires accurate pricing? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 Objection, calls for legal conclusion. 17 You can answer if you know. 18 I rely on attorneys at Dollar General 19 to tell me the law -- the attorneys at Dollar 20 General to tell me the law and at the same time 21 there are laws that govern pricing as a general 22 rule. 23 Do you disagree with the statement 2.4 "accurate pricing is the law"?

Page 82 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 1 2 You can answer. 3 Α. As a general statement I think it is going to vary. I'm not an expert in that field. 4 5 On this particular one -- this particular one was not part of my session. 6 7 (BY MR. EDWARDS) I'll ask you again do Ο. you disagree with the statement accurate pricing 8 9 is the law? 10 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 11 You can answer. I'll stick with what is in the record. 12 Α. 13 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Do you know whether O. 14 accurate pricing is the law in New York? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 You can answer. 17 I don't know the specifics of New York Α. 18 law, no. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) No, I'm not asking if 20 you know the specifics. Are you aware if New 21 York law requires prices on the shelf to align 22 with prices at the register? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to the form, 2.4 misstates the law.

You can answer.

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- A. I'm not familiar with the specifics of New York law.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. You state -- or this document states "As mentioned earlier, accurate pricing is the law. That's why we have SOP's and processes in place to help stores maintain accurate pricing." Do you agree with that?
- A. The statement that we have SOP's in place to help stores maintain accurate pricing is factual. That part of the statement, yes, we have SOP's and processes in place to help stores maintain accurate pricing.
- Q. Do you see under "Training and Tools"

 Bullet 1 that states "We're excited to launch a short three-minute CBL called maintaining pricing accuracy." Do you see that?
 - A. I do.
 - Q. Okay. What is a CBL?
- A. Computer-based learning is what CBL stands for.
- Q. Okay. That was launched some time at the beginning of this year?

- A. That specific CBL, maintaining pricing accuracy, was launched some time at the beginning of the year.
- Q. Okay. Was there something new or unique about that that made Dollar General excited to launch it at the beginning of this year?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

- A. As I recall, when we were developing that CBL, it was a revision of a prior version, and so it is -- certainly the content, the way it was designed, the fact that it was three minutes, was something that we were excited to share with the team.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) I'm going down to the third bullet point under "Training and Tools." There you talk about how stores can't maintain accurate pricing if they don't have working equipment such as printers or store PC and supplies, et cetera. Do you see that?
 - A. I do.

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Q. Again, were there issues that you had seen or that someone had identified suggesting

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Page 85 that stores didn't have adequate equipment to 1 2 get labels printed on time, for example? 3 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. 4 5 Having a working printer, toner, printer labels is such an integral part of the 6 7 process, and so we organizationally stress that over and over again because the district manager 8 9 is in the store on a regular basis. The store manager could have overlooked something like 10 11 So we're sharing it with that audience 12 just as a, hey, make sure. 13 MR. TAYLOR: Adam, you've been going 14 for about an hour and ten minutes. We will need 15 to stop for lunch in the next five minutes or so just it make sure we can actually get something 16 17 here. 18 (Lunch recess.) 19 MR. EDWARDS: We had a lunch break. 20 Now we are back on the record. I'm going to go 21 ahead and mark the next exhibit, which I believe 22 will be Exhibit 3. (The above-mentioned document was 23 2.4 marked as Exhibit 3.)

Page 86 (BY MR. EDWARDS) It should be there now 1 2 if you want to refresh. 3 Α. I'm not seeing it yet. This is a document we've marked as 4 Ο. 5 Exhibit 3 titled "Customer Service SOP 88, Customer Overcharges." Have you seen this 6 7 document before? Α. I have. 8 9 O. Is this a document you reviewed in 10 preparation for your deposition? 11 It is a PI review before my deposition. Α. Did you review other SOP's other than 12 Q. 13 SOP 88 before your deposition? 14 I reviewed this one and then a couple others in preparation. 15 16 What others? Ο. 17 This one relates to regulatory visits Α. and also includes a scan and send element. So I 18 19 reviewed both of those as well. They are 20 usually a package. 21 Q. What is there a number of another SOP 22 that you reviewed that you can tell me? 23 I don't recall. Α. 2.4 There was another standard operating

Q.

Page 87 1 procedure that dealt with customer overcharges 2 that you reviewed? 3 Α. It didn't deal with overcharges. 4 Do you know why this SOP appears to Ο. 5 include the entire United States footprint excluding Massachusetts, Michigan stores and two 6 7 counties in New York? 8 I do know that those jurisdictions have Α. 9 different operating procedures separate and 10 apart from the rest of the country. 11 Do you know how St. Lawrence and Ulster counties are different from the other counties 12 13 in New York? 14 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 15 No, sir. No, sir, I don't know that. Α. 16 Ο. Have you seen a specific customer SOP 17 on overcharges which applies specifically to 18 St. Lawrence and/or Ulster counties in New York? 19 No, not recently I haven't. Α. 20 I mean have you ever? Ο. 21 Α. I'm aware that it is an SOP. 22 You believe there is a specific SOP 0. 23 related to customer overcharges specifically for

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St. Lawrence and Ulster counties in New York?

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Page 88 I believe there is. I can't say 1 2 definitively. 3 Ο. This is a policy that you are familiar with, SOP 88? 4 5 Α. It is. 6 Okay. Do you know when SOP 88 took Q. 7 effect? 8 I do not know when this SOP was first Α. 9 -- when it first went into effect. There is an effective date at the bottom of the document 10 that reads "May 16, 2022." 11 12 Q. Do you know what policy was in place 13 regarding customer overcharges prior to SOP # 8? 14 I do not. 15 Okay. Do you know if there was a 16 standard operating procedure related to customer 17 overcharges prior to SOP 88? 18 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 19 You can answer. 20 I don't recall. Α. 21 Q. On the next page of this document, 22 which would be 0002, it states "for information 23 regarding customer overcharges in stores in Ulster county New York, referring to customer 24

Page 89 overcharges Ulster county New York stores only, 1 2 that's SOP 242. Do you see that? 3 Α. T do. Do you think that may have been one of 4 0. 5 the sop's you reviewed for your deposition? 6 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 7 You can answer. Α. I did not review SOP 242. 8 9 O. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Have you ever? 10 Α. I don't recall. 11 Okay. So it appears based on SOP 88 Ο. 12 that Dollar General strives to avoid 13 overcharging its customers, correct? 14 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 15 You can answer. 16 Α. As part of SOP 88 it is stated that we 17 strive to maintain consistency between the shelf 18 price and the price at the register. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) All right. 20 Overcharging is inconsistent with Dollar 21 General's policy to engage in -- let me start 22 It is Dollar General's policy -- let me 23 take one more crack at it. It is against Dollar 24 General policy to engage in deceptive or unfair

trade practices, correct?

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- A. I can't speak to that portion of the policy. Certainly in a question like that, that's out of my area.
- Q. Well, the policy, SOP 88, specifically reads it is against Dollar General to engage in deceptive or unfair trade practices. Did I read that right?
 - A. Yes, that is stated there.
- Q. But are you telling me you don't know whether this is actually the policy?

 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
- You can answer.
- A. I know it is the policy, if that was the question. Yes, it is stated in our policy.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Then it states "in accordance with this policy -- the one I just read -- "Dollar General strives to maintain consistency between an advertised price, a product's market price, the shelf label price and/or the price charged at the register, open paren, the, quote, scanned,", price, close paren. Did I read that right?
 - A. You did.

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Page 91

Okay. So what you stated earlier about Dollar General striving to maintain consistency between the advertised price and the shelf label price, that is in accordance with this policy that we just talked about wherein Dollar General is -- it is against Dollar General's policy to engage in deceptive or unfair trade practices. Is that a fair reading? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer? Α. In my role the definition of those terms is not familiar to me. I can state that it is Dollar General's policy to have accurate pricing at the shelf that matches what is at the register. Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Right. You don't have -- do you have a lay-person understanding of what a deceptive practice might be? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer Asked and answered? You can answer. In my role to translate those words or Α. to identify those words is not something that is

part of my role. We strive to always maintain

Page 92 1 an accurate price at the shelf that matches the 2 register. 3 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So are you a consumer, right, you buy products? 4 5 Α. I do. Okay. You go to your neighborhood 6 Q. 7 grocery store to buy a package of bread. Do you 8 see that bread is advertised on the shelf for 9 four dollars, and when you get up to the 10 register the bread is actually eight dollars. 11 Is that advertising deceptive in your opinion? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 12 13 You can answer? 14 As a customer who works in retail and 15 has expansive knowledge of retail, I know that 16 there is something wrong somewhere because the 17 prices don't match. 18 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Do you have an 19 understanding of what the word "deceptive" 20 means, just a lay person's understanding? 21 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, asked and 22 answered twice. You can answer again as well.

A. I understand what it means to be die

Objection to the form.

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Page 93 seat full. 1 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) This SOP about 3 customer overcharges, this is writ attorney employees by you and it is meant to be 4 understood, right? 5 6 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 7 You can answer? It is meant to be understood, and the 8 Α. 9 line that follows it brings the clarity to the difference between the shelf price and the 10 11 register is -- it must match. 12 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) right. Okay. Are 13 you stating that if the price at the register 14 doesn't match the price on the shelf, that that 15 may be deceptive or are you saying that not 16 deceptive or are you saying you don't know? 17 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. Objection asked and answered three times now. 18 You can answer again. 19 20 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Go ahead. Ο. 21 Or can we leave it at that since it has 22 been asked and answered. (BY MR. EDWARDS) It hasn't been asked 23 Ο. 2.4 and answered?

MR. TAYLOR: I don't agree with you. I think you are bordering on badgering the witness here. She answered questioned to the best of her ability, and she has indicated that she answered it, and at a certain level to get to be badgering you ask the same question over and over again.

MR. EDWARDS: I haven't got an answer.

I'm trying rephrase it and ask it a new way.

I'm going to ask it one more time.

Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) I'm not trying to badger you. I looking at your store's policy which states it is against Dollar General's policy engage in deceptive or unfair trade practices. I'm look ago 9 the following sentence that says accordance with this policy, Dollar General strives to maintain consistency between the advertised price and the shelf price, et cetera. I'm asking you if you have any opinion as to whether a shelf price which is inconsistent with the register price in your mind constitutes a deceptive practice?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection form, objection, asked and answered. Objection, calls for a

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Page 95 1 legal conclusion. Can you answer again. 2 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) That could yes, no or 3 I don't know? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Or something else. 5 MR. EDWARDS: Or something else. Let's go with "I don't know." 6 Α. 7 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Can we look at the Ο. procedures part of SOP 88, specifically Number 8 9 4. Do you see that? 10 Α. T do. 11 It appears that procedure Number 4 Ο. 12 directs store personnel to correct the pricing 13 and/or signage immediately if a customer points 14 out an overcharge. Is that fair? 15 Α. That's what it says. 16 Ο. Okay. So if a product has been, for example, overpriced on a Dollar General -- in a 17 18 Dollar General store for a month, is it fair to 19 say that tells us either that the store is 20 ignoring store policy or no customer has pointed 21 it out? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 23 You can answer. That depends. It could be a number of 2.4 Α.

Page 96 reasons. The two that you mentioned, it could 1 2 be one of those reasons. 3 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Assume that there is sales much this product during the 4 5 one-month period where it was overpriced on a 6 Dollar General shelf. Okay? If a customer 7 notices it and points it out, the store, according to this policy, should immediately 8 9 correct that signage, right? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 10 11 You can answer. That's a policy, yes. 12 Α. 13 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. I'm now going Ο. 14 to mark the next exhibit. 15 (The above-mentioned document was 16 marked as Exhibit 4.) 17 MR. EDWARDS: I think it has a yellow 18 sticker on it. I jumped the gun. 19 MR. TAYLOR: Is it the same one? 20 MR. EDWARDS: The same one as the same 21 exhibit sticker. 22 MR. TAYLOR: I see it now. Cool. 23 (BY MR. EDWARDS) This a long document Ο. 24 we marked Exhibit 4 entitled "Safety and

Page 97 Compliance, the Needs for Change." 1 2 Α. Bear with me for a moment, if you will. 3 It is still turning on my laptop. It probably will take a bit. This is a 4 Ο. 5 large document. While it is turning I'll 6 represent to you that this starts at Bates range 7 2004. 8 Α. Okay. 9 MR. TAYLOR: Adam, I don't want to ask 10 the same question I did before, and you may not 11 know the answer, but was this part of an E-mail 12 chain or anything like that? 13 MR. EDWARDS: You probably know the 14 answer to that question better than I do, Trent. 15 This is the way I have seen it. So I don't 16 know. 17 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. 18 MR. EDWARDS: I imagine all of these 19 documents at some point were part of E-mail 20 chains, but I have no idea. 21 Α. Okay. It is up. 22 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Is this a 23 document that you have seen before? Take all 24 the time you need to look through it.

A. Yeah, let me scroll through it here.

Okay. This document -- I recognize parts of this document, content pieces of this document.

The document as a whole is not entirely familiar to me.

Q. Understood.

- A. I'm not really sure of its origin.
- Q. Yeah. Do you know if -- let me turn your attention to the first page. That's 2005, the first page after the cover page. Do you see that?
 - A. Okay. I do.
- Q. "Safety and Compliance, The Need for Change," this appears to be a document which is setting out what Dollar General is doing currently, which at the time of this document appears to be the end of 2022 or early 2023. Then it shows what the actions will be in the future to continue to address safety and compliance. Is that a fair reading of this document?
 - MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form.
- A. As I scan the document, it does appear to be that, but I can't say definitively that's

what it is.

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Right. On that first page of content, 2005, if you look at about the fifth sentence down underneath this graphic, it states "Pricing violations based on frequency and cost of violations, different programs have been established in different locations to address." Do you agree with that, that in 2022 and 2023 Dollar General has adopted different programs or established different programs based on the frequency and cost of violations related to pricing?
- MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
 You can answer.
- A. In the form that you asked it, no, I can't say that because I wasn't the author of this and I would only be speculating, you know, if I were to say, you know, what I think that means, because I wasn't -- I wasn't the author of this document.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Let me ask you a question separate and apart from this document.

 Can you and I agree that Dollar General has established various programs to address pricing

Page 100 violations in 2022 and 2023? 1 2 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 3 You can answer. What I would share is that Dollar 4 Α. 5 General has an established different programs based on requirements in any agreements that we 6 7 entered into. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Agreements with who? 8 9 Any jurisdiction agreements, that type 10 of thing. If there were any agreements that we 11 entered into, then I would understand that. 12 Ο. Give me an example of an agreement you 13 have entered into that has forced the enactment 14 of some change so I can understand. 15 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 16 You can answer. 17 An example that I would provide -- this Α. 18 historical. The agreement is no longer in 19 place. It was an agreement that we had with the 20 State of Vermont for a period of time. 21 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is that some sort of 22 settlement agreement? 2.3 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form. 2.4 Α. I don't recall.

(BY MR. EDWARDS) So that agreement that was entered with the State of Vermont required Dollar General to put changes in place with regard to pricing? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

- I don't recall the details of it.
- (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So let's back Ο. up. I'm asking you separate and apart from this document if Dollar General has established programs in the relevant time period of this lawsuit, the last three years, to address pricing violations or overcharges. It sounds like you are telling me Dollar General has but only as a result agreements reached with governmental entities like the State of Vermont. Is that accurate?

18 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to the form. 19 Objection, misstates prior testimony.

You can answer.

- Α. That's not accurate. That's not accurate.
- (BY MR. EDWARDS) I'd like for you to clarify, tell me what's not accurate about that.

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- A. What's not accurate about that is that -- let me go back here and reread the line because, yes, different programs have been established broadly across the company in some respects.
 - Q. To address pricing violations?
- 7 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Separate and apart from agreements with states or other governmental entities?
- 11 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. So put those aside for a minute and let's talk about what you brought up, which was this agreement with the State of Vermont. Are you aware of any other agreements with any other governmental entities other than Vermont regarding pricing violations?
 - A. I don't recall them right now, if there are any.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And Vermont was quite a number of years ago.
- Q. What changes took place as a result of the agreement with Vermont?

Page 103 1 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2 You can answer. 3 Α. In the case of Vermont -- and this was a number of years ago -- it was where changes 4 5 occured around the timing of plan-o-gram changes, how we set MAG, you know. I don't 6 7 recall all the specifics of it, but there were changes that were made as a result of it. 8 9 O. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Was that just in 10 Vermont or were there changes made nationwide? 11 As I recall, there were changes made Α. nationwide. I don't recall what they were. 12 13 When did this happen approximately? O. 14 I think approximately -- it has 15 probably been eight years or nor ago. 16 Ο. Were these changes that were 17 implemented nationally effective in reducing the number of pricing violations? 18 19 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 20 You can answer. 21 Α. I don't -- I don't have data. I mean I 22 really would have to answer that I don't have 2.3 data that shows that. 2.4 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. Let's go back. Q.

There is kind of two buckets we're talking about here: One are the changes that Dollar General has put in place during the relevant time period, which I'll tell you moving forward is the last three years. Okay?

A. Uh-huh.

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Q. Over last three years. Then in this other bucket are changes due to agreements with governmental entities like Vermont.

I want to go back to the first bucket now. Can you list for me every program that has been established by Dollar General over the past three years to address overcharges or pricing violations or inaccuracies?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

- A. Every program -- I think of programs -- you know, the answer would be the programs that were designed to prevent overcharges, I can speak to the larger programs that were developed to do that.
- Q. Okay. You can only testify as to what you know, right? I think that is fair.
 - A. Right.

Q. So tell me the programs that you know about.

- A. Okay. I'll try to be all-inclusive here in terms of the programs that I know about. We've discussed a couple of them already. One program is -- I think "program" usually indicates sort of some broad thing that you are doing, but in some of these cases it is just one action that we've taken at a time. We talked about it earlier. That is the printer and did the store print labels or not. That is an action that we have taken. And there being resources available to report out on that.
- Q. So the action is what, just to
 emphasize the importance of having a working
 printer and materials to print out labels?

 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

 You can answer.
- A. The action taken was the IT work performed to institutionalize a report that we could provide to our field leaders with that information.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) What does that mean in laymen's terms?

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A. So in laymen's terms as a district manager on Wednesday morning I get a link, and I can see which stores in my district did not print labels. So that's a follow-up tool as a resource?

- Q. So every DM in the country on Wednesday mornings receives a link that will tell them which of the stores they are responsible for has printed labels?
 - A. That's right.

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Q. Okay. If they haven't printed labels by Wednesday, they are in violation because Tuesday is the deadline for printing labels because that's when the prices change at the register, right?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

A. If they haven't printed labels by
Wednesday, the district manager needs to follow
up to ensure that they print labels. It doesn't
necessarily mean they haven't printed labels.
There are going to be those outlier incidents in
which a store doesn't have a working printer, so
I need to go to a neighboring store, and my

Page 107 printer is not going to show up as having 1 2 printed those because I may have printed them at 3 a sister store. It isn't definitive in terms of I didn't print my labels, which is why the DM 4 follow-up is done. 5 6 Are these some sort of specialty 7 printers that print these labels? 8 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 9 You can answer. 10 Α. They aren't. 11 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Just regular printers? 12 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 13 You can answer. 14 I don't know the model or anything like Α. 15 that. 16 Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Sure. 17 But, you know, it is just a plain Α. 18 printer. 19 Okay. I'm just wondering, you know, 20 printers are not the most expensive items in the 21 world these days thankfully. Is there any 22 reason why stores wouldn't have available a 23 backup printer in case the printer went down? 2.4 Has that ever been discussed?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form.

You can answer.

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- A. I don't have knowledge if it has been discussed or not. Just like your home printer, there can be a number of reasons why the printer is not working, its parts, its toner. It could be a number of reasons.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So that is one thing that -- one action that Dollar General has taken to address this pricing inaccuracy or overcharging issue that we're here about today, to make available for district managers the ability to see if their stores have printed every Wednesday, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. All right. What is the second that you are aware of?
- A. The second is a program that also involves IT by which the price overrides that were performed at the store in the previous week, labels for those items print the following week.
 - Q. Is that called forced printing?
 - A. That's called -- there are a couple

different kinds of forced printing. That is one form of forced printing.

- Q. Okay. So if the store does what it is supposed to do on Tuesday and goes in on the local level and prints out the labels, that's not forced printing, right, that's just regular old printing?
 - A. That's right.

Q. Okay. But if the store, say, goes a week and the district manager sees, hey, these still haven't been printed, is one example of forced printing that you can actually go in from the corporate or IT level and print those labels yourself?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is that how that works?
- A. It could work that way but it doesn't.

 In that scenario that you just mentioned, I

 think what you said -- please correct me if I'm

 wrong -- is that a district manager goes in and

 finds out that the labels from the previous week

 weren't printed. Is that what you shared?

Q. Well, yeah. What I'm sharing is just my understanding, which admittedly could be wrong.

Why don't we just back it up and you explain to me -- give me an example of how forced printing would typically work. What would that look like? What are the steps?

- A. Okay. Forced printing is basically done by the IT department. So the first type of forced printing that we just talked about is that we have a process where the system looks at what stores did price overrides last week. We take those items and we do a forced print to the store so that on Tuesday those labels, in addition to their core labels, are there. So as they put up their core labels, they are going to put up those labels, too. If --
 - Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) So -- I'm sorry.

 MR. TAYLOR: Let her finish.
- A. I do want to add one really important thing. If I'm a customer and I come up to the register and I have an item that, you know, doesn't ring what I thought it was going to ring, the employee doesn't necessarily run back

and look at the shelf. There are situations where we have overrides because the employee just wants to make the customer happy.

- O. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Right.
- A. Oh, you thought that was for three dollars, and they do the override. Out of caution those types of things would be included because it is an override. We push those labels to the store just as part of their next-Tuesday back.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Go back to my Gillette razor example to make sure I understand this correctly. I'm going to buy a Gillette razor. I see it is on the shelf for \$12.00. I take it up to the front and it rings up for \$14.00 and I actually notice it, that it is not ringing up correctly. So the manager comes over and does an override, takes that \$14.00 charge down to 12.00. Are you with me so far?
 - A. I am.
- Q. Are you saying one example of a forced print would be when IT gets notice of that override, they will force-print the increase from the shelf label from \$12.00 to \$14.00, it

will just happen?

- A. That's right. That is an enhancement that we've done across the chain. So in the batch of labels that you receive next, that one will be in there.
- Q. Okay. In the batch of labels you receive next, you'd have to wait until the next week, it doesn't happen right when the override is received?
- A. It will happen as part of your next batch of labels.
 - Q. Oh, okay.
 - A. Whatever that batch is.
- Q. So if the override happens on a Wednesday, you may have to wait to receive your next batch the next week?
- A. The policy is when the store manager, the assistant manager, the key-carrier, performs the override, the policy is they go back and make it right. The failsafe is it is going to be in that Tuesday batch. The policy is the manager should fix it.
- Q. How does the employee fix it if they didn't have a new label to print?

A. The employee --

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- Q. They haven't got the new label yet.
- A. The employee fixes it. In your scenario, you turn the key, oh, my gosh, that should be \$14.00 on the shelf, we must have mistakenly missed that. I can scan it with my hand-held terminal, send the request back to the printer and print a label.
 - O. Okay.
- A. So that's how I correct it in real-time per policy.
- Q. I see. So for that to happen under the example we just gave, a customer has to notice it like I did in my hypothetical to start the whole process?
 - MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
- A. In that hypothetical, yes, the customer noticed in your hypothetical, wait a minute, that rang up at \$14.00, that's not what it said.
 - Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay.
- A. And so to continue on on other company-wide processes that we've installed --
 - O. This will be number three?
 - A. This will be number three. There is a

separate forced-print process by which buyers are looking at their sales of items. This especially happens at pod reset time. As the buyers are reviewing their numbers, when they notice that they aren't seeing sales on certain items, they can request a forced print or they do request a forced print. That is another way that labels can be force-printed to the store. Same process. IT takes the action and they are force-printed to the store.

- Q. Okay. So that is -- I'm trying to understand the distinction between number two and number three. Number three typically involves a sale that is being advertised that is not reflected on the shelf price?
- A. So the one that I described first is a customer overcharge that resulted in a price override.
 - 0. Okay.
 - A. That price override is signaled --
- Q. I see.
- A. -- that we need to fix this. Then the next one that I described is a buyer is noticing I'm not getting sales on those items.

Page 115 1 When you mean a "buyer," you don't mean 2 an in-store consumer? 3 Α. I don't mean a customer. 4 Ο. Okay. 5 Α. I mean a buyer. I follow you now. 6 Q. 7 Okay. So a buyer says I'm not seeing Α. 8 sales on these items, let's force a label. 9 Ο. Okay. Well, how does that third one help Dollar General avoid overcharging the 10 11 customer, though? 12 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 13 You can answer. 14 Well, that third one is -- it ensures 15 accuracy because the buyer is asking what is in 16 that slot. It is where the buyer is asking --17 that's a question that the buyer is asking 18 themselves. So it ensures pricing accuracy. 19 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So it is not 20 necessarily a specific action to address 21 overcharges, but, rather, accuracy? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 23 You can answer. 2.4 Α. Yes.

Page 116 1 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. 2 Α. The next one that I am going to 3 describe is something that we kicked off at the 4 end of the fiscal year that we call Compliance 5 Tuesday. 6 This is number four, Compliance Q. 7 Tuesday? 8 Α. Yes. It is number four. So Compliance 9 Tuesday is a dedicated four-hour shift at the 10 beginning of the day to perform compliance 11 actions. 12 So -- I'm sorry. I thought you were done. 13 I was going to ask a follow-up. 14 There is so much more. 15 Let me do a quick follow-up to make 16 sure we're on the same page. 17 Α. Sure. 18 When you say a dedicated four-hour Ο. 19 shift, are you talking about a single employee 20 whose only job during that four hours is to 21 address compliance related issues? 22 Α. Yes, sir, I am. 23 All right. Ο.

So that employee is going to work a

Α.

four-hour shift that starts at seven a.m.

Q. Every Tuesday?

- A. Every Tuesday. So we will soon come up upon almost a year of doing this. So every Tuesday there is a four-hour shift dedicating one employee to compliance that begins at seven a.m. The first action in our START communication is a task and all of what we have in writing on Compliance Tuesday, the first thing is Tuesday labels.
 - Q. Is Tuesday what?
 - A. Tuesday labels, pricing labels.
 - O. Okay.
- A. So on my compliance shift I have an order in which I do things. As the employee responsible for that, and I do two things first: So at seven o'clock I do a quick safety sweep and I print and hang my labels.
- Q. Is this person that does the new four-hour Compliance Tuesday shift, is this a manager, the store manager, or is this a lower-level employee?
- A. I think of it as it is a key-carrier.

 There is two people in the store right now. So

you can have one person at the front end ringing customers that doesn't have to be a key-carrier and then you have a key-carrier that is performing these compliance duties.

- Q. Okay. So --
- A. That doesn't mean a store manager.
- Q. So are you telling me at seven a.m. on Tuesdays there is two employees in the store?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And before this policy could it have been that there was only one employee in the store?
 - A. Yes, it could have been.
- Q. So now are you telling me that -- when did this program start? Was it early 2023?
- A. I'm telling you that we took the actions in the very last week of fiscal 2022 to institutionalize this.
- Q. Okay. So on the 52nd week of 2022 this went into place?
 - A. Yes. So we're coming up on a year.
- Q. Okay. And so now there is a requirement that two employees be in the store every Tuesday morning at seven a.m.?

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Page 119 1 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2 You can answer. 3 Α. There is a shift in the labor schedule for Tuesday morning for those two employees. 4 5 (BY MR. EDWARDS) For that four hours from seven a.m. to eleven a.m., that's not the 6 7 person at the front register, right? 8 Α. It is not. 9 Ο. Okay. But it is -- this person could 10 be an entry-level employee? 11 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 12 You can answer. 13 Yes, it could be. I mean if it had to Α. 14 be, yes. 15 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. What do you 16 mean "if it had to be"? The direction is that it is a 17 Α. 18 key-carrier, but there are employees -- I mean 19 our employees know how to hang shelf labels. 20 Okay. Are you telling me that the 21 instructions on the policy is that the person 22 doing the compliance shift on Tuesdays should be 23 a key-carrier but there is leeway there that 24 non-key-carriers can also do the Compliance

Page 120 Tuesday shift? 1 2 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 3 You can answer. In the communication and standard 4 Α. 5 operating procedure that we prepared, it should be a key-carrier. 6 7 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. What did you 0. mean when you told me that all of our employees 8 9 can do labels? 10 So in the event that the key-carrier 11 needed to be called away, someone else could do 12 it. It would not be a policy violation. 13 Okay. How much training is required Ο. 14 for this individual that does the four-hour 15 shift on Compliance Tuesday? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to form. 17 Α. There is a very detailed -- it really is very simplistic what you do on that day. It 18 19 is a series of actions that are simplistic. 20 They are detailed. We talked about it a little 21 bit earlier in the task management system in a 22 START task called Compliance Tuesday. It has its own dedicated START communication. 2.3 2.4 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is this a video?

- A. No, it is not a video. When I think about the tasks that need to be performed, this is a small bullet-pointed list, seven-to-ten-word sentences of what actions that you need to take.
- Q. Okay. So this is kind of a one-page instruction manual for the employee designated to do the Compliance Tuesday shift?
- A. I wouldn't call it a manual. It is a one-page instruction. Instead of creating a one-pager that has the instructions and send them one time, we send it every Tuesday.
 - Q. Okay. All right.
- A. And the only employees that have access to the START task management system are key-carriers.
- Q. What is this document called with the bullet points that is sent out every Tuesday?
 - A. It is called Compliance Tuesday.
 - Q. Okay.
 - A. Compliance Tuesday.
- Q. With the bullet points?
- A. Yes. Not a lot of bullet points, but
 Compliance Tuesday, exclamation point, and then

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it has a few bullets.

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Q. All right. So does an employee have to have a certain number of weeks or months of experience to do this Compliance Tuesday task?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

A. There is not a called-out minimum to the amount of experience they would have. There certainly is the instructions in the START task, which are clear on what to do, you know.

Would someone need training? Yes, they would have needed training at one point in time to be able to per form all of the duties of Compliance Tuesday. When we think about the two that we've talked about, we've talked about the safety sweep, the first thing they come in, it is an automatic prompt in their hand-held terminal, and then the Tuesday labels are a separate START communication. So there is already a task there for your Tuesday labels. You print them and go.

Q. Okay. What is the starting salary for entry level at a Dollar General store in New York, if you know?

Page 123 1 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2 You can answer. 3 Α. I don't know for New York. That's not 4 my area. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is it close to minimum 5 wage, do you have any idea? 6 7 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. 8 9 Α. An HR team member would have to answer 10 that. 11 (BY MR. EDWARDS) You told me the Ο. 12 employee would have to have some training, if i 13 heard you right. What kind of training would 14 that be to do the four-hour Compliance Tuesday 15 shift? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 17 You can answer. 18 That form of training would be a 19 one-time shoulder-to-shoulder with a person of 20 knowledge. And that would be adequate. 21 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So someone in 22 the store that has done the Compliance Tuesday 23 before would walk them through the process? 2.4 Α. That's right. Then they have the

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Page 124 supporting tools in START. It is going to be right there on their menu Tuesday morning, you know, here is my little task list. supporting documentation would be there it help as well. Okay. In your experience is it typical Q. for someone other than the store manager to do this four-hour Compliance Tuesday shift? MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. You can answer. I mean I can't speak to knowing how Α. many non-store managers, you know, are doing this on Compliance Tuesday. As a key-carrier you have to have a sign-on to get into the task. So I really can't speak to how any of those would go about that. Ο. (BY MR. EDWARDS) What qualifies the

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) What qualifies the employee at Dollar General to be a key-carrier?

 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

 You can answer.
- A. That really is in terms of the job description. I mean definitely the HR team would be the subject-matter expert there.
 - Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) All right.

- A. So I would only be speculating.
- Q. Right. So you don't -- I understand that HR is going to know the specifics, but do you know whether it is a time-qualified thing or special training or both to become a key-carrier?

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

You can answer.

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- A. I don't know if there is a specific. I don't have any recent knowledge of job descriptions, if there is any sort of hiring requirements like that. The HR team would know.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) You are one of the people responsible for coming up with this Compliance Tuesday change --

MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.
You can answer.

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) -- is that correct?
- A. I worked as part of a collaborative group. So there were certainly -- given the financial investment here there were certainly lots of people involved in it conceptually. And then, as is typical, that sort of fun else through, you know, conceptually here is what

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we're going to do and then identifying exactly what we're going to do and then getting into process.

So, you know, if your question is around communication to stores, communication to the field, documenting the process, then that would be me.

Q. Do you know why -- or what is the purpose behind the policy which indicates that a key-carrier should be the one doing the four-hour Compliance Tuesday shift?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection, form.

Objection, misstating her prior testimony.

You can answer it.

- A. I wasn't, you know, part of those conversations if they were even had. But, you know, in terms of dealing with confirming store safety, confirming accurate pricing, the other parts of Compliance Tuesday, we would want that to be a key-carrier.
- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Is it because you want someone doing these tasks to be, you know, trustworthy and reliable as a key-carrier might be?

Page 127 1 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 2 You can answer. 3 Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) I mean is that part of it? 4 I think the other thing that I would 5 6 add is when I think about the store net PC and I 7 think about the HHT, those are for key-carriers 8 only. You are dealing with things like the 9 perpetual inventory. So it is a natural tie that it would be a key-carrier because they 10 11 already have those responsibilities of working with those tools. 12 13 Do you disagree with what I said 14 earlier, that there is an element of wanting 15 someone trustworthy built into that policy that 16 requires a key-carrier to do the Compliance 17 Tuesday four-hour shift? 18 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 19 You can answer. 20 I don't agree or disagree. The person Α. 21 is already in a role to have responsibilities of 22 maintaining accurate potential, ensuring safety, utilizing our hand-held terminal. That's how I 23 2.4 think about it.

- Q. (BY MR. EDWARDS) Understood. Is there a number five to your list of actions taken by Dr. -- or Dollar General to --
 - A. Well, it is 3:30 there, so you --
- Q. Yeah, my old med-mal days are coming back to me.
 - A. Mid-afternoon, right?
 - O. Yeah.

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- A. Gosh. Let me think. We talked about forced-prints. We talked about Compliance

 Tuesday. Those four are the main ones.
- 12 Q. Okay. Turn to -- I'm sorry.
- 13 A. No, go ahead.
- Q. Turn to the next page, which is 2006,
 where it states "Investing in Safety and
 Compliance Action Plan." Do you see that?
- 17 A. I do.
- Q. Under "Price Accuracy" it states

 "Recovery from increased pricing activity in

 20 2022 and go forward strategic to sustain

 compliance." Do you have any idea what that

 means, "recovery from increased pricing activity

 in 2022"?
- A. I do. I referenced it briefly earlier.

The coming out of COVID where there were all kinds of supply-chain challenges, there was reformulation of products, changes in assortments, there were an "unprecedented" -- is the only word I can use here -- number of price changes from our vendors.

Q. Right.

2.4

A. Numbers honestly in all my years with Dollar General I had never seen. So what I just described for you for Compliance Tuesday was our institutional response based on all these unprecedented things that had happened this year in terms of price changes, we've need to do something permanent.

That doesn't mean that we weren't supporting along the way because, you know, we were supporting along the way, that if shelf label numbers ended up -- and those typically aren't decided upon until late in the week, sometimes Monday. So there were scenarios where we were, you know, giving support along the way. Because of that unprecedented number of price changes in 2022, we knew we needed a permanent solution for 2023.

- Q. When you say "permanent solution," the changes that you made at the end of 2022 moving forward, those aren't a temporary thing, right? You mean that to be those changes are going to stay in place for the foreseeable future?
 - A. Those changes are permanent.
 - Q. Okay.

2.4

- A. And I think it is also important to note it was an event that we conducted at one point in time but certainly still is a tool in our toolbox and we did support it with labor hours. After the Compliance Tuesday first began, we took an entire week off from doing any price changes --
 - O. I see.
- A. -- and we utilized that week to do what we called a full-store scan. So when you think about those unprecedented price changes, yes, we were supporting them along the way, we came up with a permanent plan, but at the same time what could we do as an event to further ensure pricing accuracy at the shelf?

So we conducted in every store what we call a full-store scan in which we didn't send

any pricing that week. They spent that time on Tuesday scanning and validating accurate pricing throughout the store.

Q. We need to pause just a second to change court reporters, but I need to close out this loop.

When did this event take place that you are talking about where every store did a full scan?

- A. Our fiscal -- sorry. I think in terms of fiscal weeks. Last year was a 53-week year. That full scan occured in week 53, essentially the very end of the fiscal year.
- Q. Is there a document or spreadsheet that shows the results of that full-store scan?

 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form.

 You can answer.
- A. There is a document that shows -- we can go back to the task management system -- what that event was. As I recall, during that week there were also field leaders out in stores working shoulder to shoulder with teams to ensure that that that was happening.

And then, you know, validation, you

2.3

Page 132 1 know, I don't know the specifics of it, but 2 validation, because when you think about it, 3 okay, I'm doing a full-store scan, that means I 4 have to print labels for whatever I find that 5 wasn't correct. And so there was some activity 6 around confirming, yeah, the stores did print 7 labels as part of that. 8 Okay. That lasted a few weeks, you Ο. 9 said, the very last week of 2022? 10 Α. That's right. 11 MR. TAYLOR: We need to make sure we're 12 talking about fiscal year versus calendar year. 13 THE WITNESS: Yeah. 14 (BY MR. EDWARDS) Okay. So that fiscal 15 year the 53rd fiscal week of 2022 would have 16 fallen in what month? 17 Α. It would have fallen in January. 18 O. Of this year? 19 Of this year. Α. 20 Q. Okay. 21 A. Of this calendar year, yes. 22 Ο. This is every store in Dollar General in the United States? 23 2.4 Α. Yes, it is.

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Page 133
 1
         Q. Okay.
               MR. EDWARDS: Let's pause to take a
 2
      break to swap court reporters.
 3
               (Conclusion time Volume I: 2:41 p.m.
 4
 5
      CST.)
                  (Signature not waived.)
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Veritext Legal Solutions 305-376-8800

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	ERRATA S	SHEET CORRECTIONS		
Page	Line	Now Reads	Should Read	
			_	
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Page 135 1 CERTIFICATE 2. STATE OF TENNESSEE 3 COUNTY OF SHELBY 4 I, Brian Dominski, Licensed Court Reporter, in and for the State of Tennessee, do 5 hereby certify that the above proceeding was reported by me, and the transcript is a true and 6 accurate record to the best of my knowledge, 7 skills, and ability. I further certify that I am not related 8 to nor an employee of counsel or any of the parties to the action, nor am I in any way 9 financially interested in the outcome of this 10 case. 11 I further certify that I am duly licensed by the Tennessee Board of Court 12 Reporting as a Licensed Court Reporter as evidenced by the LCR number and expiration date following my name below. 13 14 I further certify that this transcript is the work product of this court reporting 15 agency and any unauthorized reproduction and/or transfer of it will be in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated 39-14-104, Theft of Services. 16 17 18 19 20 21 Brian Dominski, LCR #114 22 VERITEXT REPORTING CORPORATION 236 Adams Avenue 23 Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Page 136 1 Mia Savaloja 2 3 December 19, 2023 4 RE: Wolf, Joseph, Et Al. v. Dollar General Corporation, Et Al. 12/14/2023, Mia Savaloja (#6347862) 5 The above-referenced transcript is available for 6 7 review. 8 Within the applicable timeframe, the witness should 9 read the testimony to verify its accuracy. If there are 10 any changes, the witness should note those with the 11 reason, on the attached Errata Sheet. 12 The witness should sign the Acknowledgment of 13 Deponent and Errata and return to the deposing attorney. 14 Copies should be sent to all counsel, and to Veritext at 15 litsup-ga@veritext.com 16 17 Return completed errata within 30 days from receipt of testimony. 18 If the witness fails to do so within the time 19 20 allotted, the transcript may be used as if signed. 21 22 Yours, 23 Veritext Legal Solutions 2.4 25

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[0002 - accuracy]

Page 137

0	20 68:6 134:20	3	9
	20.00 69:18	_	_
0002 88:22	20.00. 69:24	3 4:5 85:22,24	9 71:24 94:15
0021653 67:14	2004 97:7	86:5	901-523-8974
08902 3:8	2005 98:9 99:3	30 136:17	1:17
1	2006 128:14	37292 3:6	96,14 4:5
1 4:4 51:16,23	2007 36:18	38103 1:17 3:18	a
52:8 83:16	2015 37:3	135:23	a.m. 2:5 117:1,7
10 81:3	2017 20:19 22:9	39-14-104	118:7,24 119:6
100 75:22	22:13 36:21,22	135:16	119:6
10:00 2:5	37:1,2	3:30 128:4	ability 94:4
114 3:17 135:21	2022 29:19,22	4	108:13 135:7
12.00 43:11,22	30:1,4 88:11	4 4:5 95:9,11	able 51:5,8 60:8
111:24	98:17 99:8	96:16,24	62:2 122:13
12.00. 111:14,19	100:1 118:17,19	5	above 52:7 60:5
12/14/2023	128:20,23	5 64:6,20	85:23 96:15
136:5	129:23 130:2	5,12 4:2	135:5 136:6
130 3:8	132:9,15	52,6 4:4	acceptable
14 1:12	2023 1:12 2:2	52nd 118:19	17:24 18:2,18
14.00 43:11	19:12,20,21	53 131:11,12	access 121:14
111:15,18,24	20:3,4,22 22:14	53rd 132:15	accessories
113:5,19	22:20,24 23:4	5th 78:12	49:18 50:7,16
14.00. 41:8	26:8,9,17 28:12	6	50:16 51:3,10
43:22	98:17 99:9		accessory 49:16
14th 2:2	100:1 118:15	60,4 4:4	accordance
1520 3:8	129:24 136:3	6347862 136:5	90:17 91:4
15th 79:10	2024 79:8	7	94:16
16 88:11	21.35. 70:2	7:23cv00558 1:5	accountability
19 28:18 136:3	23219 3:12	8	45:8,12
19.50 69:23	236 1:16 3:18	_	accumulate
1st 79:8	135:22	8 66:9,11 88:13	32:6
2	242 89:2,8	800 3:5,12	accuracies
2 4:4 57:19,22	26622 135:21	86,8 4:5 88 4:5 86:5,13	24:15
60:4,6 71:20	2:41 133:4	88:4,6,17 89:11	accuracy 23:22
74:10		89:16 90:5 95:8	70:9,18,20 72:2
		07.10 70.3 73.0	74:18 76:14

Veritext Legal Solutions

[accuracy - answer]

Page 138

	1		1
77:2,12 83:18	activities 26:5	administration	agreed 49:19
84:2 115:15,18	38:19	25:20 26:1	52:9
115:21 128:18	activity 72:15	admittedly	agreement
130:22 136:9	74:24 75:1	110:2	100:12,18,19,22
accurate 22:15	128:19,22 132:5	adopted 99:9	101:1 102:14,24
22:18 23:1 66:6	actual 39:21	ads 80:8	agreements
70:11 72:5,10	actually 57:19	advantage 24:2	100:6,8,9,10
81:6,9,14,24	63:1 66:12 69:2	advertised	101:15 102:9,15
82:8,14 83:6,8	85:16 90:11	52:12,18 90:19	104:8
83:11,14 84:19	92:10 109:12	91:3 92:8 94:18	ah 36:4
91:13 92:1	111:16	114:14	ahead 16:14
101:17,21,22,24	ad 80:8,14,20	advertisements	51:14 57:18
102:1 126:18	81:1	80:9	85:21 93:20
127:22 131:2	adam 3:4 5:6	advertising	128:13
135:6	6:23 60:12	92:11	aisles 69:20
accurately	85:13 97:9	advised 57:12	80:24
70:14	adams 1:16 3:18	73:1	al 1:3,6 136:4,4
acknowledge	135:22	afternoon 128:7	align 82:21
17:10	add 19:13 21:18	age 9:7	allegations 8:21
acknowledgm	40:18 69:21	agency 135:15	16:6,11,18
136:12	110:20 127:6	ago 8:3 26:13	allege 16:22
action 73:8	adding 60:3	94:15 102:22	allotted 136:20
105:9,12,14,19	addition 76:22	103:4,15	amelia 21:14
108:9 114:9	110:15	agree 6:5,6,14	26:22
115:20 117:7	additional 49:5	11:11 12:12	amount 49:20
128:16 135:9	63:9 64:23	17:4,14 18:13	54:15,21 55:4
actionable	address 31:13	28:17 29:19	55:10 57:2 68:5
38:24	31:18,21 77:12	33:1 45:5 52:17	122:8
actions 98:18	98:19 99:8,24	53:12,24 54:13	analogies 50:14
116:11 118:17	101:12 102:6	55:2,19 56:8	analysis 33:9
120:19 121:4	104:13 108:10	64:13 65:24	angela 35:7,16
128:2	115:20 116:21	68:18 81:13	annotated
active 78:11	addressed 73:15	83:8 94:1 99:8	135:16
79:24	adequate 85:1	99:23 127:20	answer 6:17
	123:20		7:20 8:24 10:24

Veritext Legal Solutions

[answer - automatic]

Page 139

L	- 3		\mathcal{E}
11:21 13:3,7,14	91:10,20,21	appearance	68:23 82:19
14:6,12 15:24	92:13,22 93:7	7:13,17	94:19 101:9
16:8 17:1,9,16	93:19 94:8 95:1	appearances 7:8	115:15,16,17
17:20 18:9,15	95:23 96:11	7:15	aspect 54:3
18:22 21:1	97:11,14 99:14	appearing 2:6,7	aspects 60:1
22:17 23:3,10	100:3,16 101:6	2:9,10 51:24	asset 21:7,8,10
23:24 24:10	101:20 103:2,20	appears 32:6	21:13,14,15
26:12,21 28:4	103:22 104:16	61:5 87:4 89:11	22:3,22 23:12
28:23 29:12	104:18 105:18	95:11 98:14,17	23:19 24:2,7
30:6,7 31:15	106:17 107:9,13	applicable	assist 13:10
32:11,21 33:5	108:2 109:16	136:8	assistant 112:18
34:7,23 35:6,15	115:13,23 119:2	applies 87:17	assortment
37:20 38:7 39:7	119:12 120:3	appropriate 7:5	51:13
39:24 40:13	122:6 123:2,8,9	approximately	assortments
41:16 42:9,16	123:17 124:10	2:4 7:23 8:3	129:4
43:6,15 44:1,9	124:20 125:8,17	13:18 27:12	assume 6:18
44:17 45:11,19	126:14 127:2,19	29:16 58:7	41:5 63:12 96:3
48:11,23 49:22	131:17	103:13,14	assumed 22:13
50:23 52:14,21	answered 17:21	approximation	assuming 40:23
53:8,16 54:2,11	23:9 55:7 91:20	58:8	attached 136:11
54:17 55:8,17	92:22 93:18,22	april 21:6	attaches 53:14
55:24 56:11,15	93:24 94:3,5,24	apt 36:10	attempt 23:21
56:22 57:7,16	answering	area 21:4 26:8	attention 98:9
59:4,16,24 62:7	50:22	40:6,7,9 51:4	attorney 93:3
62:22 63:16	answers 5:23	90:4 123:4	136:13
65:5 66:3 68:14	6:3 13:11	arrive 50:4	attorneys 81:18
69:10 71:5,12	apart 87:10	articulates	81:19
71:18 72:14	99:22 101:9	41:19	audience 63:4
73:4,17 74:14	102:8	aside 102:12	73:18,20,23,24
75:4 77:23	app 31:2,4,7,11	asked 23:8 55:7	85:11
78:19 79:15	31:12,23 32:6	91:20 92:21	audits 29:9 71:2
80:5 81:17 82:2	32:16	93:18,22,23	author 99:16,19
82:11,16 83:1	appear 9:8 10:5	94:24 99:15	automatic
84:9 85:4 88:19	98:23	asking 6:12 7:18	122:17
89:7,15 90:13		54:24 65:2	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[available - call] Page 140

available 30:23	badger 94:12	big 24:4 69:8	brunswick 2:8
105:13 107:22	badgering 94:2	bigger 24:4	3:8
108:12 136:6	94:6	biggest 51:11	bucket 104:8,10
avenue 1:16	based 14:17	bill 8:12,16 9:6	buckets 104:1
3:18 135:22	32:7 49:6 56:7	68:6	built 127:15
average 55:14	83:21 89:11	bit 30:9 38:13	bullet 66:9,11
55:14	99:5,10 100:6	39:9 54:8 76:3	66:12,17 67:16
avoid 6:3 70:10	129:11	97:4 120:21	67:19 68:2,8,10
70:14 71:1	basically 110:8	board 135:11	69:2,14 70:7
89:12 115:10	basis 85:9	book 78:23	81:4,5 83:16
avoiding 70:24	batch 46:1	bordering 94:2	84:17 121:3,18
aware 31:1 51:6	112:4,6,11,13	bottom 67:12	121:22,23
82:20 87:21	112:16,21	88:10	bullets 122:1
102:15 108:17	bates 67:11 97:6	bought 10:17	burlington 59:9
b	bear 97:2	box 75:22,23	business 25:20
bachelor's	began 130:13	branch 2:11	26:1
25:24	beginning 2:4	bread 92:7,8,10	butchering
back 11:2 22:7	61:6 83:24 84:3	break 11:8	36:10
29:18 30:9	84:6 116:10	36:15 73:6	buy 92:4,7
32:24 37:2	begins 117:6	85:19 133:3	111:13
38:12 40:2,24	behalf 2:2	breaks 11:10,14	buyer 78:6,6
41:4 43:9 51:15	believe 8:8 9:14	brian 3:17 22:1	114:23 115:1,5
54:7 71:19	14:19,21 17:22	40:8 42:22	115:7,15,16,17
85:20 101:8	24:5 32:13	135:4,21	buyers 114:1,4
102:2 103:24	33:19 35:21	brief 36:1	buying 18:11
102.2 103.24	74:6,15 85:21	briefly 128:24	43:21
<u> </u>	87:22 88:1	bring 47:1,7,11	c
111:10,11 112:19 113:7	believed 9:6	brings 93:9	c 3:2 35:22
128:6 131:19	best 6:3 14:2	broad 105:7	
	20:13 69:22	broader 15:20	135:1,1 calendar 132:12
background	94:3 135:6	broadly 102:4	
25:17,18	better 23:21	broken 73:14	132:21 call 34:15,18
backgrounds 54:19	97:14	brought 8:10	36:7 38:16 46:5
	beyond 15:20	9:14 102:13	116:4 121:9
backup 107:23	50:15		130:24
			130.24

Veritext Legal Solutions

[called - collier] Page 141

called 34:2 46:4	categories 49:3	change 37:24	charged 52:11
49:6 67:11	51:11	38:2 39:4 40:3,5	52:16 90:21
83:17 108:23,24	category 46:24	40:10 42:23	charging 18:6
120:11,22	49:5 51:12	43:1 44:14 48:3	check 42:4
121:17,19 122:7	caution 111:7	48:4 62:16	choice 70:6
130:17	cbl 83:17,20,21	66:10,19 97:1	chose 14:15
calls 81:16	84:1,11	98:14 100:14	christmas 46:20
94:24	cd 51:11	106:14 125:15	75:22 76:21,21
canal 3:12	cell 49:16,18	131:5	church 70:5
cap 76:8,10 77:7	50:6,9,16 51:2	changed 43:3	circular 69:16
caps 67:3 74:21	51:10	63:18 64:24	civil 2:14
75:1 76:2,3,7,14	center 23:14	77:8	claims 10:18
captured 45:24	73:7	changes 12:9	clarice 25:1,5
career 19:7	centers 47:15	29:24 37:18	clarify 101:24
carlisle 22:5	central 53:22	39:11 40:11	clarity 93:9
carrier 112:18	65:13,18,24	42:1,7,14,18	clear 6:2,4,8 7:9
117:23 118:2,3	certain 94:5	43:7 44:21	19:19 50:19,20
119:18,23 120:6	114:5 122:3	45:17 46:8	64:7,11 122:10
120:10 124:13	certainly 23:12	47:20 63:7,8,9	clip 32:4
124:18 125:6	29:19 48:16	63:24 66:20	clock 76:18,19
126:10,20,23	54:24 75:16	78:6,7 79:20	close 36:3 90:22
127:10,16	84:12 90:3	101:3 102:23	123:5 131:5
carriers 119:24	122:9 125:20,21	103:4,6,8,10,11	closer 64:22
121:16 127:7	130:10	103:16 104:2,8	code 31:18,21
case 1:14 7:4	certify 135:5,8	129:3,6,13,23	135:16
8:4,5,10,22 9:12	135:11,14	130:2,4,6,14,18	coleman 3:5
9:22 10:1,6,17	cetera 29:4	136:10	collaborated
13:1,12 16:17	30:24 84:21	chao 35:22	65:21
16:22 42:24	94:19	characterization	collaboration
44:22 67:6	chain 29:3	61:9	68:15
103:3 107:23	47:14 97:12	characterize	collaborative
135:10	112:3 129:2	54:20	125:19
cases 10:10	chains 97:20	charge 35:21	college 25:19,22
105:8	challenges	111:18	collier 2:8 3:13
	129:2		12:6 15:9

[combine - correct]

Page 142

			_
combine 23:16	companies 21:2	129:10 130:12	content 63:13
come 12:10 30:9	21:3	comply 79:21	64:21 84:12
36:3 48:17	company 58:21	computer 83:21	98:3 99:3
54:18 74:22	59:8 102:4	conceptually	context 39:9
76:7 110:21	113:22	125:22,24	continue 98:19
117:3 122:16	complaint 16:3	conclusion	113:21
comes 55:1	16:6,12,17	81:16 95:1	conversation
75:19 111:17	complete 9:23	133:4	72:17
coming 29:4,20	77:20	conducted	conversations
70:4 118:21	completed	130:9,23	126:16
125:14 128:5	41:24 77:16	confidentiality	conveyed 39:5
129:1	136:17	7:5	cookies 78:1,1
comment 29:18	compliance 4:4	confirmed	cool 96:22
commission	4:5 12:19 20:6,8	36:22	coolers 47:2
134:22	20:18,23 21:7	confirming	copies 136:14
common 21:2	22:9,14,21 23:5	126:17,18 132:6	core 46:7,11,11
communicated	23:13,19,22	confusing 6:9	46:13,14,15,23
38:19 41:13	24:1,6 26:7,9,15	50:15	47:8,10,12,17
communicates	26:19 27:6,19	connie 57:23	47:23 48:4 49:3
39:11 40:18,20	28:1,11 53:22	58:3,5,13 59:1,5	72:6 75:2,5,7
40:21	54:3,5 61:5,15	59:7,11,12,13	110:15,16
communication	62:24 64:12	59:21 60:1	corp 3:14
19:3,14,15 20:5	65:13,16,17,24	connie's 58:9	corporate 9:9
20:17 22:9	77:4,7 97:1	connow 24:20	12:2 21:19
36:17,24,24	98:13,20 116:4	consent 2:4	109:13
37:3,16 38:14	116:6,8,10,21	consistency	corporation 1:6
38:15,24 39:1,4	117:6,9,14,20	89:17 90:19	1:16 3:17
39:10,16 40:9	118:4 119:22,24	91:2 94:17	135:22 136:4
40:19 117:8	120:15,22 121:8	constitutes	correct 15:10
120:4,23 122:19	121:19,21,24	94:22	17:24 18:7
126:5,5	122:4,14 123:14	consumer 34:11	19:12,24 22:23
communicatio	123:22 124:8,13	92:3 115:2	27:20 36:15,18
37:5,6,7,9	125:15 126:11	consumers	36:19 40:1,16
communities	126:19 127:16	10:22	41:2,3 42:10
70:19 71:9,14	128:10,16,21		43:13,16 44:4

Veritext Legal Solutions

[correct - definitive]

Page 143

44:10,15 52:12	cover 98:10	customer's	deadline 106:13
66:5 80:3 89:13	covers 22:6	57:13,17	deal 87:3
90:1 95:12 96:9	covid 28:18,24	customers 30:20	dealing 17:6
108:14 109:21	29:5,8,20 129:1	30:23 31:2 33:2	126:17 127:8
113:10 125:18	crack 89:23	33:6,7,11,16	deals 40:9
132:5	crackers 78:1,1	34:3 52:11,15	dealt 87:1
corrections	79:7	52:18 54:14,18	december 1:12
134:1	create 34:21	55:3,9,12,20	2:2 136:3
correctly 66:22	creating 121:10	56:1 66:4 67:22	deceptive 89:24
67:8 111:13,17	criteria 14:15	68:4 70:12,19	90:7 91:7,18
cost 53:6 99:6	14:17	71:3,9,13 80:20	92:11,19 93:15
99:11	cst 2:5 133:5	89:13 118:2	93:16 94:14,22
cough 20:7	curious 73:11	d	decided 21:6
counsel 2:4 3:14	current 18:24	d 4:1	129:19
11:18 14:24	19:2	dan 24:20	deciding 70:3
36:15 135:8	currently 12:5	dann 3:7	decision 22:21
136:14	35:4 41:7 98:16	data 33:15,24	23:7,11 37:24
counties 87:7,12	customer 4:5	34:11 45:24	38:2,12 41:5
87:12,18,24	17:7 18:6,10,13	46:1 103:21,23	decisions 24:12
country 87:10	18:20,23 32:16	database 32:18	52:19
106:6	33:21 35:16	date 41:1 79:1,3	deck 34:18,19
county 88:24	43:21 52:22	79:4,5,19,19,20	decks 35:4
89:1 135:3	53:3,9,13,17	79:22,23 80:3	dedicated 116:9
couple 7:1 9:23	55:1,15 56:7,8	88:10 134:18	116:18 120:23
86:14 105:5	56:13,17 64:12	135:12	dedicating
108:24	64:16,17,18	day 2:2 12:9	117:5
coupon 35:13	66:1 71:6 86:5,6	26:15,15,19,19	dedmon 27:17
coupons 30:24	87:1,16,23	27:1,1,2,2 39:3	27:19,21
32:2 69:15,16	88:13,16,23,24	54:14 66:23	defendants 1:7
court 1:1 3:16	92:14 93:3	67:8 68:4	3:10
5:5,18,21 7:12	95:13,20 96:6	116:10 120:18	definitely
7:14 131:5	110:21 111:3	134:20	124:22
133:3 135:4,11	113:13,17	days 8:3 79:12	definition 91:11
135:12,14	114:17 115:3,11	107:21 128:5	definitive 107:3
		136:17	
		130.17	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[definitively - document]

Page 144

dofinitivaly 00.2	dogianotod	differently	diamogad 2.17
definitively 88:2 98:24	designated 121:7	differently 18:17 76:3	disposed 2:17
'			disrespectful 36:8
degree 25:19,24	designations 7:6	digital 30:23	
delegate 41:22	designed 67:24 84:13 104:19	direct 24:23	distinction 21:17 114:12
delivered 38:14		direction	
38:15	detail 46:15 detailed 120:17	119:17	distributed 34:12
delivering 50:1	120:20		
delivery 47:5		directionally 50:5	distribution 47:15
department	details 9:24 24:12 51:13		
21:9,10 33:9	101:7	director 19:3,10	district 1:1,1 8:16 25:13
34:20 58:12,19		20:5,17 22:8	
110:9	determine 42:5 52:23 53:5 62:3	27:2,6,19 28:1,6 28:7 33:22	
depends 95:24		36:23	85:8 106:1,3,19 108:12 109:10
deponent 134:18 136:13	developed 104:20		
		directors 37:13 61:16 74:1	109:22
deposing 136:13	developing 84:10		divided 58:22
deposition 1:10		directs 42:11	division 37:14 74:1
2:1,12 4:4,7	dg 30:11,12,14	95:12	' ' '
6:21 7:19 8:1,2	30:15,16 32:16	disagree 29:20	dm 106:6 107:4
9:8,20 10:15	67:22	68:11 71:15,22	document 34:2
11:19,24 12:11	dge 30:15 die 92:24	81:23 82:8	34:9 44:12,13 44:20 52:7 60:5
12:15,16 13:19		127:13,20	
14:16 15:15,20 36:14 51:24	differ 47:8,10 difference 72:2	discounts 80:20	60:14,16 61:23
	93:10	discovery 13:1,7	62:3,11,12,13 62:20 63:1 64:3
61:24 86:10,11 86:13 89:5	different 21:4	discrepancy 10:22	74:10 83:5
	26:8 32:7 35:17	discuss 36:14	85:23 86:4,7,9
depositions 10:9 describe 116:3	42:20 47:19	discussed 105:5	88:10,21 96:15
described	58:11,14 59:7	107:24 108:4	96:23 97:5,23
	60:24 62:3,17		·
114:16,23 129:10	63:10 75:6 87:9	discussing 14:18,20	98:2,3,3,4,14,16 98:21,23 99:20
		discussion 5:9	98:21,23 99:20
description 124:22	87:12 99:6,7,9 99:10 100:5	9:17 21:22	121:17 131:14
	102:3 109:1		131:18
descriptions 125:11	102.3 109.1	display 76:6 77:6	131.10
123.11		/ / :0	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[documentation - edwards]

Page 145

_	l		
documentation	55:1,3,4,9,15,20	drops 49:17	16:2,10,16 17:4
124:4	56:20 57:4,14	dsd 47:2,4,16,18	17:12,21 18:4
documenting	58:6,17 59:2,21	47:20,22 48:5	18:19,24 21:8
126:6	62:19 66:1	49:4 50:8,10,11	21:23 22:2,19
documents	67:23 68:1	50:21	23:6,18 24:5,14
12:18,20,24	70:21 71:9	due 9:6 78:11	26:16,22 28:8
13:18,21 14:4,9	80:18 81:18,19	104:8	29:6,16 30:8
14:10,13,15	84:5 89:12,20	duly 5:2 135:11	31:17,22 32:15
34:11,16,21	89:22,23 90:6	duties 118:4	32:23 33:8,14
45:2 46:10	90:18 91:2,5,6	122:13	34:1,10,15 35:1
60:20 97:19	91:13 94:13,17	dvd 50:17,24	35:8,19,23 36:2
doing 76:17	95:17,18 96:6	51:2	37:22 38:9
98:15 105:8	98:15 99:9,23	e	39:20 40:2,14
117:4 119:22	100:4 101:3,10	e 3:2,2 4:1 12:21	41:21 42:12,21
124:12 126:10	101:14 104:2,12	12:22 13:6 25:1	43:9,17 44:5,11
126:22 130:13	108:9 115:10	25:1,3,3 31:13	44:23 45:13
132:3	122:23 124:18	57:23 60:14,16	46:3 48:12 49:2
dokum 8:12	128:3 129:9	60:21,24 97:11	49:23 51:1 52:5
dollar 1:6 3:14	132:22 136:4	97:19 135:1,1	52:9,17 53:2,12
8:7,14 9:10,11	dollars 41:7	earlier 5:16	53:20 54:7,13
10:6,15 12:1	92:9,10 111:6	36:22 52:10	54:23 55:13,19
16:23 17:5,14	dominski 2:10	72:10,16 76:4	56:5,12,19 57:4
18:3,12,12	3:17 135:4,21	81:6 83:5 91:1	57:10,18,21
19:11 20:3,16	donnie 58:2	105:10 120:21	59:9,20 60:3,7
21:9,11 22:20	dr 128:3	127:14 128:24	60:15,19 61:11
23:20 27:21	draft 64:21	early 98:17	61:12 62:9,23
28:19,20 30:18	drafted 62:13	118:15	63:17 65:6 66:8
31:1,12 32:18	62:14 64:19	easy 32:4	69:13 71:8,15
33:2,6,16 34:4	drafts 62:14	educational	71:19 72:18
34:12,17 35:13	drivers 47:11	25:16,18	73:10,23 75:6
41:6 44:12 45:3	droge 57:23	edwards 2:6 3:4	78:4 79:18 80:7
45:6,14 49:9,12	58:2,3 59:1	4:2,7 5:4,8,11	82:7,13,19 83:4
49:18 52:10,15	drop 20:22 47:5	7:11,18 9:3 11:2	84:16 85:19
53:13,21,22	50:2	11:23 13:5,10	86:1 89:9,19
54:5,8,14,18		13:16 14:8,14	90:16 91:16

Veritext Legal Solutions

[edwards - exclamation]

Page 146

92:3,18 93:2,12	element 23:13	72:21 73:8	et 1:3,6 29:4
93:20,23 94:8	86:18 127:14	76:18 106:20	30:24 84:21
94:11 95:2,5,7	eleven 119:6	130:21 131:23	94:19 136:4,4
96:3,13,17,20	emotions 56:16	ensures 115:14	event 120:10
96:23 97:13,18	emphasize	115:18	130:9,21 131:7
97:22 99:2,21	70:24 105:15	ensuring 74:17	131:20
100:8,21 101:1	employee 10:15	127:22	eventually
101:8,23 103:9	10:18 70:21	entered 1:14	62:15
103:24 105:23	73:6 110:24	100:7,11,13	everybody 32:3
107:11,16 108:8	111:2 112:23	101:2	evidenced
109:17 110:18	113:1,3 116:19	entire 58:14	135:12
111:4,11 113:20	116:24 117:6,15	64:1 87:5	exact 34:8
115:19 116:1	117:22 118:11	130:13	exactly 30:12
119:5,15 120:7	119:10 121:7	entirely 98:4	46:9 126:1
120:24 123:5,11	122:2 123:12	entities 101:16	examination 4:2
123:21 124:17	124:18 135:8	102:10,16 104:9	5:10
124:24 125:13	employees	entitled 96:24	examined 5:2
125:18 126:21	15:13 73:1 93:4	entry 119:10	example 26:23
127:3 128:1	118:8,23 119:4	122:23	29:10 39:10
132:14 133:2	119:18,19 120:8	epidemic 28:17	43:10 49:15
eeoc 8:5	121:14	equipment	69:7,11 77:19
effect 88:7,9	employment 8:6	84:20 85:1	77:24 79:6 85:2
effective 43:7	9:22 10:1,10,16	erc 72:20 73:12	95:17 100:12,17
79:4 88:10	10:18	erin 22:5 26:23	109:11 110:5
103:17	enactment	errata 134:1	111:12,21
efficiencies	100:13	136:11,13,17	113:13
23:12	encompasses	especially 114:3	examples 50:7
eight 7:23 10:9	61:4	esq 3:4,7,11	50:10,15 51:6,8
10:10 92:10	ended 129:18	essentially	51:9 57:10
103:15	engage 89:21,24	38:17 46:14	except 2:16
either 14:24	90:6 91:7 94:14	131:12	excited 83:16
33:20 45:16	enhancement	established 99:7	84:6,14
73:7 77:7 95:19	112:2	99:10,24 100:5	exclamation
electronically	ensure 66:20	101:10 102:4	77:16 121:24
43:12	70:10,11,17	104:12	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[excluding - forced]

Page 147

excluding 87:6	eyes 80:22	fault 56:20 57:5	88:8,9 98:9,10
executive 59:6	f	57:13,17 70:9	99:2 104:10
exhaustive 51:5	f 25:2 135:1	feature 76:12	110:9 114:16
exhibit 4:4,4,5,5	facilitate 62:17	federal 2:13	117:7,9,16
51:15,16,17,18	facilitating	feel 17:22 56:13	122:16 130:12
51:23 52:8	68:24	59:13,17 63:17	fiscal 116:4
57:19,22 60:3,4	facilitator 62:18	71:19	118:17 131:10
60:6,9 71:20	fact 84:13	feeler 59:19	131:11,13
74:10 85:21,22	factual 16:10,18	feels 56:8	132:12,14,15
85:24 86:5	83:12	felt 73:11	five 58:8 85:15
96:14,16,21,24	failed 29:8	field 22:3 23:14	128:2
exhibits 4:3,6	failing 77:20	37:9,10,12,17	fix 112:22,23
7:3	fails 136:19	58:13 82:4	114:22
exhibitshare	failsafe 112:20	105:21 126:6	fixed 54:15,21
51:15	fair 6:18,19	131:21	55:4,10,10 68:5
expand 15:20	43:23 44:23	fifteen 79:12	fixes 113:3
expansive 92:15	48:7,13 63:12	fifth 99:4	flip 6:16
expected 47:7	71:3 91:8 95:14	fifty 18:12	floor 76:17
expensive	95:18 98:20	figure 77:1	flow 38:1
107:20	104:23	final 61:20	folder 51:19
experience	fairly 21:2	63:23	follow 21:24
33:21 34:11	32:13	financial 125:21	36:12 41:10
56:17 65:19	fallen 132:16,17	financially	106:4,19 107:5
66:1 122:4,8	false 16:11,19	135:9	115:6 116:13,15
124:6	familiar 30:14	find 132:4	following 29:7
expert 82:4	30:15,20,22	finds 109:23	94:15 108:21
124:23	51:12 83:2 88:3	fines 70:10,14	135:13
expiration	91:12 98:4	71:1	follows 5:3 93:9
135:12	family 69:18,22	finish 110:19	footprint 87:5
expires 134:22	70:4	firm 3:7,16	force 111:23
explain 30:10	far 37:2 42:22	first 5:2 7:2	114:8,10 115:8
37:4 45:14,20	111:19	10:14,19 13:17	forced 100:13
80:15 110:5	farid 18:10	20:10 36:13	108:23 109:1,2
eye 80:23	fashion 7:10	51:14 64:6	109:6,12 110:6
	45:4	67:16 72:5 81:4	110:8,10,13

Veritext Legal Solutions

[forced - general]

Page 148

111:21 114:1,6	69:9 71:4,11,17	four 24:23	fuzzy 11:6
114:7 128:10	72:13 73:3,16	25:10,14 72:1	g
forefront 28:19	74:13 75:3	92:9 116:6,8,9	g 25:1 74:21
foreseeable	77:22 78:18	116:18,20 117:1	75:2,12,16
130:5	79:14 80:4	117:5,20 119:5	76:14
forgive 36:7	81:15 82:1,10	120:14 123:14	ga 136:15
form 2:16 7:9	82:15,23 84:8	124:8 126:11	gathering 12:24
8:23 10:23	85:3 87:14	127:17 128:11	gathering 12.24 gay 3:5
11:20 13:2,8,13	88:18 89:6,14	fourteen 79:11	gears 30:9
14:5,11 15:23	90:12 91:9,19	frame 29:21	general 1:6 3:14
16:7,13,24 17:8	92:12,23 93:6	free 71:19	3:14 8:7,15 9:10
17:15,19 18:1,8	93:17 94:23	freeze 21:21	9:11 10:6,15
18:14,21 20:24	95:22 96:10	frequency 99:5	16:21,23 17:6
22:16 23:2,8,23	98:22 99:13,15	99:11	17:14 18:3
24:3,9 26:11,20	100:2,15,23	frequently	19:11 20:3,16
28:3,22 29:11	101:5,18 103:1	11:15	21:9,11 22:20
30:5 31:14,20	103:19 104:15	friday 78:11	27:22 28:19,21
32:10,20 33:4	105:17 106:16	friend 70:5	31:1,12 32:8,12
33:12,18 34:5	107:8,12 108:1	front 63:3	32:14,18 33:2,6
34:14,22 35:5	109:2,15 113:16	111:15 118:1	34:4,12,17
35:14 37:19	115:12,22 119:1	119:7	35:13 41:6
38:6 39:6,23	119:11 120:2,16	fulfillment	42:18 44:12
40:12 41:15	122:5,13 123:1	78:21,22	45:3,6,15 48:15
42:8,15 43:5,14	123:7,16,18	full 5:12 64:6	49:9,12,18
43:24 44:8,16	124:9,19 125:7	93:1 130:17,24	52:10 53:13,21
45:10,18 48:10	125:16 126:12	131:8,12,15	55:1,3,4,9,15,20
48:22 49:21	127:1,18 131:16	132:3	57:14 58:6,17
52:13,20 53:7	formalities 2:15	fulton 25:23	59:2,22 62:19
53:15 54:1,10	format 34:19	fun 125:23	66:1 70:21 71:9
54:16 55:6,16	former 10:18	function 21:4	80:19 81:18,20
55:23 56:10,14	forms 2:15	functional 21:4	81:21 82:3 84:5
56:21 57:6,15	forty 14:4	further 130:21	89:12,24 90:6
59:3,15,23 62:6	forward 13:6	135:8,11,14	90:18 91:2,5
62:21 63:15	104:4 128:20	future 98:19	94:17 95:17,18
65:4 66:2 68:13	130:3	130:5	96:6 98:15 99:9

Veritext Legal Solutions

[general - heard] Page 149

			T
99:23 100:5	global 28:1,10	116:2,13,24	guessing 6:11
101:3,10,14	go 16:14 22:7	124:1 125:3	guide 74:24
104:2,12 108:9	39:12 41:4 43:9	126:1,2 130:4	75:1
115:10 122:23	51:14,18 57:18	good 5:12 32:3	gun 96:18
124:18 128:3	64:2 71:19 81:3	59:13,21	guys 33:8
129:9 132:22	85:20 92:6	goodletsville 2:9	h
136:4	93:20 95:6	12:4	h 25:3 35:22
general's 12:1	102:2 103:24	gosh 9:21 113:4	half 27:12
23:21 30:18	104:10 106:24	128:9	hand 67:12
33:16 52:15	109:12 111:11	govern 81:21	113:7 122:17
53:23 54:5,9,14	112:19 122:21	governed 7:4	127:23
54:18 56:20	124:16 128:13	government	
57:5 89:21,22	128:20 131:19	29:9 71:2	hang 117:18 119:19
91:6,13 94:13	goes 32:16	governmental	happen 38:21
generally 42:24	49:11 78:9	101:16 102:9,16	47:23 48:4,6
48:9 75:17	109:4,9,22	104:9	69:7 73:8
generates 44:13	going 5:20,21	gram 46:16 75:9	103:13 112:1,8
getting 20:12	6:7,17 11:5	77:15,20 78:2,5	112:10 113:12
50:14 114:24	12:17 20:12	78:8,11,14,15	
126:2	26:4 29:1,18	79:7,11,16,19	happened 129:12
gillette 41:6	30:8,9 35:23	79:20,21 80:2	happening
43:10,18 111:11	41:7 43:11	103:5	131:23
111:13	46:15 48:9	grams 77:11	happens 38:22
give 6:17 49:14	52:24 53:6,9,10	78:23	45:14,22 63:6
51:8 67:10 69:6	53:19 65:22	graphic 99:4	112:14 114:3
77:19 100:12	67:7 69:20,23	great 7:10 80:19	happy 111:3
110:5	70:15,16 71:21	green 65:17	hard 68:7
given 6:20 7:19	75:13,23 76:6	grocery 92:7	hauck's 40:8
10:14 74:4,5	77:3 78:22,24	group 24:4	42:22
125:20	79:11 82:4	27:11 33:22	head 21:13,14
giving 12:11	84:16 85:13,20	35:17 125:20	69:19
129:21	94:10 96:13	grown 23:15	headquarters
glad 6:13	106:22 107:1	guess 14:2,7	12:2
glance 80:24	110:16,23	21:20	heard 123:13
	111:13 112:20		ntaiu 123.13

Veritext Legal Solutions 800-726-7007

[hearing - investing]

Page 150

haaring 2.10	120.12	110.20 120.0	: J:: J D 0.0
hearing 2:18	130:12	110:20 130:8	individually 9:9
held 113:7	hr 123:9 124:22	inaccuracies	individuals
122:17 127:23	125:3,12	24:8 104:14	25:10
help 6:4 73:22	huh 6:3,4 62:9	inaccuracy	inevitably 6:9
76:14,15 81:8	104:6	26:10 28:18	information
83:7,11,13	humiliated 56:8	30:3 57:24	33:21 39:16
115:10 124:4	56:13,17 70:8	108:10	88:22 105:22
helped 64:21	hypothetical	inaccurate 69:8	install 75:17
hesitate 11:9	41:10 113:14,17	79:13,17	installed 113:22
hey 85:12	113:18	incidents	instance 63:8
109:10	i	106:22	instances 72:24
hht 127:7	idea 32:23 55:13	include 37:16	73:5
high 8:20 9:1,3		58:24 87:5	institutional
9:5 32:8 54:8	97:20 123:6	included 31:20	129:11
highway 3:8	128:21	53:21 111:7	institutionalize
hiring 125:11	identified 84:24	includes 86:18	105:20 118:18
historical	identify 91:23	inclusive 37:12	instruction
100:18	identifying	105:3	121:7,10
history 32:7,19	126:1	income 55:10,14	instructions
hit 43:1	idg 31:23	inconsistent	119:21 121:11
hits 78:17	ignoring 95:20	89:20 94:21	122:9
home 70:4 76:5	imagine 97:18	incorrect 77:9	integral 85:6
108:4	immediately	78:13	integral 83.0
honest 59:18	95:13 96:8		135:9
	impact 29:21	increase 29:8,15	
honestly 9:17	implemented	30:3 41:13	interrogatories
80:18 129:8	103:17	43:10,12 47:22	13:12
hope 36:7	importance	48:9 111:23	introduce 57:21
hour 35:24	18:5 53:14	increased 41:8	introduced
85:14 116:9,18	105:15	128:19,22	57:19 63:10
117:1,5,20	important 6:1	increases 29:4	introducing
120:14 123:14	19:13 21:17	indicated 94:4	52:6 60:4
124:8 126:11	28:20 39:8	indicates 46:12	inventory 49:10
127:17	52:10 54:3,6	105:7 126:9	49:11 127:9
hours 15:4	65:16 71:6,8,13	individual 42:3	investing
116:20 119:5	73:11 80:2	120:14	128:15
	13.11 00.2		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[investment - label]

Page 151

Investment 125:21 jillian 25:1,5 job 19:1,2,4,6,7 19:8 20:2,4,16 117:23 118:2,3 103:6 104:18,23 105:1,4 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,19 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,10 107:17,1	• 4	• 20	1 4 62 20	02.16.07.2.6
invoiced 49:13 job 19:1,2,4,6,7 112:18 113:4 98:8 99:17,18 involve 10:16 19:8 20:2,4,16 117:23 118:2,3 103:6 104:18,23 involved 10:20 20:20 22:13 119:18,23,24 105:1,4 107:14 26:9,14,19 65:1 23:1,21 25:4 120:6,10 121:16 107:17,19 involves 37:5,7 27:14,16,24 126:10,20,23 122:10,24 123:3 involving 10:21 35:8 37:1 58:16 127:7,10,16 124:3,12 125:3 issue 86:9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:43,15,17 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 jump 16:11 75:21 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 29:3 70:11 75:21 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 132:1,1 know 19:1 132:1,1 knowing 69:21 132:1,1 knowing 69:21 132:1,1 knowing 69:21 124:11 120:22 124:11 knowing 69:21 124:11 knowing 69:21 125:6 42:11 125:6 42:11	investment	jersey 2:8	kept 62:20	93:16 95:3,6
involve 10:16 19:8 20:2,4,16 117:23 118:2,3 103:6 104:18,23 involved 10:20 20:20 22:13 119:18,23,24 105:1,4 107:14 26:9,14,19 65:1 23:1,21 25:4 120:6,10 121:16 107:17,19 involves 37:5,7 27:14,16,24 124:13,18 125:6 110:22 119:19 involving 10:21 59:5,14,21 kicked 116:3 kicked 116:3 issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:43,12 125:3 29:3 70:11 75:21 28:19 104:1 126:48,15,17 126:48,15,17 29:3 70:11 75:21 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 129:2 124:21 125:10 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 13:3 16:21 36:18 39:14 39:14 39:14 17:16 124:21 125:10 39:14 39:14 39:14 39:14 19:20 73:13 39:16:11 39:18 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 39:19 <t< td=""><td></td><td>,</td><td> •</td><td>, ,</td></t<>		,	•	, ,
involved 10:20 20:20 22:13 119:18,23,24 105:1,4 107:14 26:9,14,19 65:1 23:1,21 25:4 120:6,10 121:16 107:17,19 72:21 125:22 26:5 27:4,8,9,13 124:13,18 125:6 110:22 119:19 involves 37:5,7 27:14,16,24 126:10,20,23 122:10,24 123:3 involving 10:21 59:5,14,21 kicked 116:3 124:3,12 125:3 issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 126:22 129:16 issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 72:20 73:13 jump 16:11 75:21 129:2 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 84:23 116:21 jumped 16:18 jumed 16:18 knew 129:2 knowing 69:21 10:9 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 123:20 123:20 125:10 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 keep 46:447:45				'
26:9,14,19 65:1 23:1,21 25:4 120:6,10 121:16 107:17,19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 110:22 119:19 120:6,10 121:16 120:20,23 120:10,24 123:3 120:10,20,23 122:10,24 123:3 127:7,10,16 124:3,12 125:3 127:7,10,16 124:3,12 125:3 129:19 10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 129:19 10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 129:19 10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 129:19 10:11 120:22 1131:24 120:10,20,23 122:10,24 123:3 125:4,9,12,24 126:4,8,15,17 126:22 129:16 129:19 10:19 10:10 120:19 120:19 10:10 120:19 120:19 10:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 120:19 12		, ,	<u> </u>	· ·
72:21 125:22 26:5 27:4,8,9,13 124:13,18 125:6 110:22 119:19 involves 37:5,7 27:14,16,24 126:10,20,23 122:10,24 123:3 involving 10:21 59:5,14,21 kicked 116:3 125:4,9,12,24 issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 75:21 75:21 129:2 knowing 69:21 29:3 70:11 75:21 129:2 knowing 69:21 34:23 116:21 jursdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 123:20 123:20 46:16,19 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledge 35:3 123:20 135:6 49:10 55:20 46:23 47:1,6 49:13 51:2 40:14 42:18,21 46:4 47:4 52:22 46:4 47:4 52:22 36:12 46:4 47:4 52:22 36:3 46:13,15 46:13,12 46:11 125:1 125:1 125:1			, , ,	,
involves 37:5,7 27:14,16,24 126:10,20,23 122:10,24 123:3 108:19 114:14 35:8 37:1 58:16 127:7,10,16 124:3,12 125:3 involving 10:21 59:5,14,21 kicked 116:3 125:4,9,12,24 issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 29:3 70:11 75:21 129:2 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 38:23 116:21 jump 16:18 kit 78:21,22,24 knowing 69:21 48:23 116:21 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 22:15 108:3 10:9 24:16,17 27:7 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 30:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 35:6 nowledgeable 310:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 knowledgeable 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 46:4 47:4 52:22 36:4 knowledgeable 310:13 49:10 55:20 46:33 68:16,18 69:3 72:	' '	23:1,21 25:4	120:6,10 121:16	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
108:19 114:14 35:8 37:1 58:16 127:7,10,16 124:3,12 125:3 involving 10:21 59:5,14,21 kicked 116:3 125:4,9,12,24 issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:4,8,15,17 10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 29:3 70:11 75:21 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 48:23 116:21 96:18 kit 78:21,22,24 knowing 69:21 36:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 40:11,17 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 46:23 47:1,6 k 29:13 32:5 35:12 knowledgeable 310:23 108:21 k 25:2 k 20:13 32:2 knowledgeable 3110:13 114:2,6 k 25:2 k 25:1 46:4 47:4 52:22 3:6 35:10 5	72:21 125:22	26:5 27:4,8,9,13	124:13,18 125:6	110:22 119:19
involving 10:21 59:5,14,21 kicked 116:3 125:4,9,12,24 issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:4,8,15,17 10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 29:3 70:11 75:21 129:2 knowing 69:21 72:20 73:13 jumped 16:18 kit 78:21,22,24 knowing 69:21 44:23 116:21 96:18 knew 129:23 knowledge 35:3 item 46:16,19 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 135:6 50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 35:6 knowledgeable 35:12 items 46:22,22 k k 29:13 32:5 35:12 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 keep 45:6,15 49:10 55:20	involves 37:5,7	27:14,16,24	126:10,20,23	122:10,24 123:3
issue 8:6,9 80:19 116:20 kind 15:14 126:4,8,15,17 10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 29:3 70:11 75:21 129:2 knowing 69:21 72:20 73:13 jumped 16:18 kit 78:21,22,24 124:11 84:23 116:21 96:18 knew 129:23 knowing 69:21 it'll 7:16 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 46:23 47:1,6 k 25:2 49:13 51:2 kcep 45:6,15 49:10 55:20 kcep 45:3 iterations 62:11 63:5 <	108:19 114:14	35:8 37:1 58:16	127:7,10,16	124:3,12 125:3
10:16 17:6 124:21 125:10 28:19 104:1 126:22 129:16 28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 29:3 70:11 75:21 129:2 knowing 69:21 72:20 73:13 jumped 16:18 kit 78:21,22,24 knowing 69:21 84:23 116:21 96:18 knew 129:23 knowledge 35:3 it'll 7:16 junctures 19:7 know 12:11,17 92:15 108:3 item 46:16,19 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 items 46:22,22 juror 58:20 39:14 42:18,21 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 110:13 114:2,6 49:10 55:20 59:1 60:13,15 61:3,22 62:19 63:3 68:16,18 63:5 j keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 73:19 81:17 46:11,11 52:23 132:17 kelly	involving 10:21	59:5,14,21	kicked 116:3	125:4,9,12,24
28:18,20 108:11 joseph 1:3 136:4 121:6 123:13 129:21 131:24 132:1,1 knowing 69:21 129:2 knowing 69:21 124:11 129:2 124:11 knowing 69:21 124:11 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1 125:1	issue 8:6,9	80:19 116:20	kind 15:14	126:4,8,15,17
issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 knowing 69:21 29:3 70:11 75:21 jumped 16:18 kit 78:21,22,24 knowing 69:21 84:23 116:21 96:18 knew 129:23 knowledge 35:3 it'll 7:16 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 knowledgeable 35:12 10:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 35:12 items 46:23 47:1,6 k 39:14 42:18,21 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 kaufman 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 10:13 114:2,6 14:24 115:8 49:10 55:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 136:4 45:3 45:3 87:4,8,11,15 88:6,8,12,15 46:11,11 52:23 javier 3:7 kelly 3:13 12:6 88:6,8,12,15 90:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	10:16 17:6	124:21 125:10	28:19 104:1	126:22 129:16
issues 11:5 26:9 jump 16:11 kinds 109:1 132:1,1 knowing 69:21 29:3 70:11 75:21 jumped 16:18 kit 78:21,22,24 knowing 69:21 84:23 116:21 96:18 knew 129:23 knowledge 35:3 it'll 7:16 junctures 19:7 know 12:11,17 92:15 108:3 item 46:16,19 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledge able 35:12 items 46:22,22 juror 58:20 33:22,24 34:17 knows 69:20 46:23 47:1,6 k 25:2 46:4 47:4 52:22 3:6 10:13 114:2,6 k 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 10:13 114:2,6 49:10 55:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 13:2:1 63:5 january 74:6,12 45:3 87:4,8,11,15 88:6,8,12,15 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6<	28:18,20 108:11	joseph 1:3 136:4	121:6 123:13	129:21 131:24
75:21	issues 11:5 26:9	• •	kinds 109:1	132:1,1
84:23 116:21 96:18 knew 129:23 knowledge 35:3 it'll 7:16 junctures 19:7 know 12:11,17 92:15 108:3 50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 knowledge able 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 knowledgeable 46:23 47:1,6 k 39:14 42:18,21 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 kaufman 25:2 10:13 114:2,6 k 25:2 46:4 47:4 52:22 3:6 10:13 114:2,6 49:10 55:20 49:10 55:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 1a 36:4 63:5 45:3 45:3 82:13,17,20 46:11,11 52:23 5a:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 79:22 90:20 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24 javier 3:7 kennedy 21:15 80:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	29:3 70:11	75:21	129:2	knowing 69:21
it'll 7:16 junctures 19:7 know 12:11,17 92:15 108:3 50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 knows 69:20 46:23 47:1,6 k 39:14 42:18,21 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 knowville 2:6 10:13 114:2,6 k 25:2 keep 45:6,15 3:18 54:4,9 110:13 114:2,6 49:10 55:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 1a 36:4 63:5 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 63:3 68:16,18 44:6,11,14 46:7 45:3 45:3 87:4,8,11,15 53:10 57:1,3,8 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 87:4,8,11,15 79:22 90:20 javier 3:7 kennedy 21:15 90:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	72:20 73:13	jumped 16:18	kit 78:21,22,24	124:11
it'll 7:16 junctures 19:7 know 12:11,17 92:15 108:3 item 46:16,19 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 knows 69:20 46:23 47:1,6 k 39:14 42:18,21 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 kaufman 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 10:13 114:2,6 49:10 55:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 1a 36:4 4eeps 45:6,15 49:10 55:20 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 keeps 32:18 45:3 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 january 74:6,12 kelly 3:13 12:6 87:4,8,11,15 88:6,8,12,15 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24 javier 3:7 kennedy 21:15 90:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	84:23 116:21		knew 129:23	knowledge 35:3
item 46:16,19 jurisdiction 20:21 23:7 24:3 123:20 125:10 50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 items 46:22,22 juror 58:20 33:22,24 34:17 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 knoxville 2:6 107:20 108:21 k 25:2 3:6 107:20 108:21 keep 45:6,15 49:10 55:20 49:10 55:20 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 63:5 73:19 81:17 44:6,11,14 46:7 38:6,8,12,15 79:22 90:20 39:14 42:18,21 46:4 47:4 52:22 46:13,22 62:19 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 66:3,22 62:19 63:3 69:19 82:13,17,20 87:4,8,11,15 79:22 90:20 53:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24	it'll 7:16	junctures 19:7	know 12:11,17	
50:23 66:23 100:9 24:16,17 27:7 135:6 67:9 70:3 jurisdictions 27:14,24 29:2,3 knowledgeable 110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 items 46:22,22 juror 58:20 33:22,24 34:17 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 kaufman 25:2 keep 45:6,15 49:10 55:20 114:24 115:8 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 125:1 la 36:4 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 82:13,17,20 87:4,8,11,15 79:22 90:20 53:10 57:1,3,8 132:17 kennedy 21:15 88:6,8,12,15 90:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	item 46:16,19	•	20:21 23:7 24:3	123:20 125:10
110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 items 46:22,22 juror 58:20 33:22,24 34:17 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 39:14 42:18,21 knoxville 2:6 49:13 51:2 kaufman 25:2 kaufman 25:2 33:6 107:20 108:21 kaufman 25:2 59:1 60:13,15 1 114:24 115:8 49:10 55:20 61:3,22 62:19 63:3 68:16,18 63:5 49:10 55:20 69:3 72:11 1a 36:4 1abel 39:11 44:3 44:6,11,14 46:7 73:19 81:17 46:11,11 52:23 132:17 53:13 12:6 88:6,8,12,15 132:17 68:6,8,12,15 90:10 14 92:15	50:23 66:23		24:16,17 27:7	135:6
110:22 87:8 29:13 32:5 35:12 items 46:22,22 juror 58:20 33:22,24 34:17 knows 69:20 49:13 51:2 k 39:14 42:18,21 knoxville 2:6 49:13 51:2 kaufman 25:2 46:4 47:4 52:22 3:6 107:20 108:21 kaufman 25:2 59:1 60:13,15 1 14:24 115:8 49:10 55:20 61:3,22 62:19 63:3 68:16,18 63:5 49:10 55:20 69:3 72:11 1a 36:4 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 73:19 81:17 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 59:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	67:9 70:3	jurisdictions	27:14,24 29:2,3	knowledgeable
46:23 47:1,6 k 39:14 42:18,21 knoxville 2:6 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 46:4 47:4 52:22 3:6 107:20 108:21 kaufman 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 110:13 114:2,6 keep 45:6,15 59:1 60:13,15 1 49:10 55:20 keeping 13:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 1a 36:4 63:5 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 46:11,11 52:23 56:3 69:19 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 53:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24	110:22	•	29:13 32:5	
46:23 47:1,6 k 39:14 42:18,21 knoxville 2:6 49:13 51:2 k 25:2 46:4 47:4 52:22 3:6 107:20 108:21 k 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 110:13 114:2,6 keep 45:6,15 59:1 60:13,15 61:3,22 62:19 63:5 49:10 55:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 63:5 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 46:11,11 52:23 45:3 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24	items 46:22,22	juror 58:20	33:22,24 34:17	knows 69:20
49:13 51:2 k 25:2 3:6 107:20 108:21 kaufman 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 110:13 114:2,6 keep 45:6,15 59:1 60:13,15 1 14:24 115:8 49:10 55:20 61:3,22 62:19 1a 36:4 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 january 74:6,12 45:3 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 88:6,8,12,15 91:3 111:24 javier 3:7 kennedy 21:15 88:6,8,12,15 91:3 111:24	46:23 47:1,6		39:14 42:18,21	knoxville 2:6
107:20 108:21 kaufman 25:2 53:18 54:4,9 1 110:13 114:2,6 keep 45:6,15 59:1 60:13,15 1 114:24 115:8 49:10 55:20 61:3,22 62:19 1a 36:4 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 january 74:6,12 45:3 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 87:4,8,11,15 79:22 90:20 javier 3:7 kennedy 21:15 88:6,8,12,15 91:3 111:24	49:13 51:2		46:4 47:4 52:22	3:6
110:13 114:2,6 114:24 115:8	107:20 108:21		53:18 54:4,9	1
iterations 62:11 63:5 49:10 55:20 keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 69:3 72:11 keeps 32:18 45:3 45:3 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 88:6,8,12,15 30:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24	110:13 114:2,6		59:1 60:13,15	
iterations 62:11 keeping 13:20 63:3 68:16,18 69:3 72:11 44:6,11,14 46:7 january 74:6,12 45:3 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 javier 3:7 kelly 3:13 12:6 88:6,8,12,15 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		61:3,22 62:19	
63:5 j keeping 13:20 56:3 69:19 keeps 32:18 january 74:6,12 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 kennedy 21:15 69:3 72:11 73:19 81:17 82:13,17,20 87:4,8,11,15 88:6,8,12,15 90:10 14 92:15 label 39:11 44:3 44:6,11,14 46:7 46:11,11 52:23 53:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24			′	
j keeps 32:18 january 74:6,12 45:3 82:13,17,20 87:4,8,11,15 53:10 57:1,3,8 79:22 90:20 91:3 111:24			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
january 74:6,12 45:3 82:13,17,20 53:10 57:1,3,8 132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 87:4,8,11,15 79:22 90:20 javier 3:7 90:10 14 92:15 91:3 111:24	j			· · ·
132:17 kelly 3:13 12:6 87:4,8,11,15 79:22 90:20		_	82:13,17,20	, and the second
javier 3:7 kennedy 21:15 88:6,8,12,15 91:3 111:24	•		87:4,8,11,15	, ,
$\begin{vmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 &$			88:6,8,12,15	
112.24 113.2,8	javici 3./	Keimeuy 21.13	90:10,14 92:15	
				112.24 113.2,0

Veritext Legal Solutions

[label - mail] Page 152

115:8 129:18	launch 83:16	38:4 40:4 41:14	longer 23:4
labels 39:12,21	84:6	42:24 54:8 78:8	100:18
40:22 41:20	launched 83:23	79:9 94:5 109:5	look 24:4 53:9
42:5,7,13 43:3	84:2	109:13 117:22	71:20 94:15
43:18 45:4,7,15	law 3:7 81:7,13	119:10 122:23	95:7 97:24 99:3
72:6,11 75:17	81:19,20,24	lexicon 59:18	110:7 111:1
76:7,23 77:5,8,8	82:9,14,18,21	licensed 135:4	looking 52:23
77:9 78:10,22	82:24 83:3,6	135:11,12	63:21 80:21
85:2,6 105:11	lawrence 87:11	life 11:5 56:2	94:12 114:2
105:16 106:4,9	87:18,24	lights 75:22	looks 110:11
106:11,13,18,20	laws 81:21	limited 25:12	loop 131:6
106:21 107:4,7	lawsuit 10:2	line 65:6,8,10	lost 22:24
108:21 109:5,13	101:12	70:5 73:20 93:9	lot 46:15 80:19
109:23 110:14	lawyer 8:20	102:2 134:2	121:23
110:15,16,17	lay 91:17 92:20	link 106:2,7	lots 30:16
111:8 112:4,6	layman's 45:23	list 51:5 104:11	125:22
112:11 114:8	laymen's 105:24	121:3 124:3	lower 117:21
117:10,12,12,18	106:1	128:2	lunch 85:15,18
119:19 120:9	lcr 3:17 135:12	litigation 10:21	85:19
122:18,20 132:4	135:21	15:22	m
132:7	leaders 105:21	litsup 136:15	m 25:2,3
labor 119:3	131:21	little 15:19 30:9	ma'am 61:13
130:11	leadership	35:23 38:13	mad 70:8
laptop 97:3	23:16 73:20	39:9 50:14 54:8	made 22:21
large 23:13 97:5	leads 17:22	60:10 76:3	23:7,11,16 38:3
larger 24:3	learning 83:21	120:20 124:3	41:6 63:19,24
60:14,16 61:2	leave 7:11 70:12	llc 3:11	84:5 103:8,10
104:20	93:21	local 109:5	103:11 130:2
lasted 132:8	led 75:22	location 58:15	mag 74:18,21,23
lastly 80:8	leeway 119:23	locations 99:7	74:23 77:15
late 42:13,17,18	left 58:17 59:2	logo 67:23	78:22,23 103:6
42:19 43:18,19	legal 81:16 95:1	long 15:3 19:4	mail 31:13
45:16 129:19	136:23	20:11,12,15	60:14,16 97:11
lateral 28:9	level 8:20 9:1,3	27:7 31:8 58:4,5	97:19
	9:5 24:12 32:8	58:9,9 96:23	
	7.5 2 1112 52.6	0015,5 501=0	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[mails - mission]

Page 153

mails 12:21,22	109:10,22	93:11,14	memphis 1:17
13:6 57:23	111:17 112:17	matches 91:14	3:18 135:23
60:21,24	112:18,22	92:1	mentioned 27:1
main 76:20	117:21,21 118:6	materials	52:7 60:5 81:6
128:11	124:7	105:16	83:5 85:23 96:1
maintain 76:14	manager's	matter 15:22	96:15 109:20
81:8 83:8,11,14	80:22	16:3 45:21 56:2	menu 124:2
84:18 89:17	managers 25:6	70:20 124:23	merchandising
90:18 91:2,24	37:13 42:4	mcguire 3:11	51:4
94:17	70:13 108:12	mean 12:20	merino 2:7 3:7
maintaining	124:12	14:2 19:20 32:3	message 70:13
83:17 84:1	mand 69:21	37:11 76:9,13	met 15:2,5,9
127:22	manual 121:7,9	78:16 87:20	method 38:13
make 6:2,4 7:5,9	march 78:3 79:8	103:21 105:23	mia 1:11 2:1 5:1
11:5 15:19	79:10	106:21 115:1,1	5:14 36:8 61:6
19:24 37:24	maribeth 27:17	115:3,5 118:6	136:1,5
38:2 42:7 44:6	27:18,21 28:6	119:13,16,18	michael 35:22
53:3 66:20 70:6	28:10,15	120:8 124:11,22	michigan 87:6
72:1 77:2 78:6	mark 51:14	127:3 129:15	mid 41:1 74:6
85:12,16 108:12	57:18 85:21	130:4	128:7
111:3,12 112:20	96:14	means 9:14 67:6	milberg 3:5
116:15 132:11	marked 51:16	80:15 92:20,24	mind 94:22
makes 44:19	51:18,23 52:8	99:19 128:22	minimum 122:7
making 24:12	60:6,8 85:24	132:3	123:5
42:22 67:4,5	86:4 96:16,24	meant 93:4,8	minute 83:17
mal 128:5	market 90:20	mechanism	102:12 113:18
managed 27:2	marketing 33:9	47:19	minutes 84:14
management	34:24 35:1,10	med 128:5	85:14,15
38:17 39:5	marking 35:17	medications	missed 21:24
41:18 120:21	martin 35:7	11:4	113:6
121:15 131:19	massachusetts	meeting 15:6	missing 36:20
manager 8:16	87:6	member 39:15	mission 53:23
25:8 39:14,15	match 56:24	123:9	54:5,9 65:18
41:22,23 85:8	57:1 64:15	memory 11:6	67:17,21 69:17
85:10 106:2,19	66:21 92:17		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[mississippi - object]

Page 154

	14!1- (0.00		40.17.56.16
mississippi 2:11	multiple 60:23	neighborhood	49:17 56:16
missouri 25:23	62:11 63:4,24	92:6	86:21 95:8,11
misstates 34:6	n	neighboring	95:24 102:21
62:5 82:24	n 3:2 4:1 25:2	106:24	103:4,18 108:5
101:19	name 5:13 8:12	net 127:6	108:7 113:23,24
misstating	27:3 34:8 36:10	never 129:9	114:12,13,13
126:13	57:23 62:8	new 1:1 2:8 3:8	116:6,8 122:3
mistakenly		14:21 32:13	128:2 129:5,22
113:6	63:22 135:13	42:5 58:24	135:12
model 107:14	names 24:24	82:14,17,20	numbers 67:12
moment 67:22	nationally	83:3 84:4 87:7	114:4 129:8,18
97:2	103:17	87:13,18,24	,
monday 129:20	nationwide	88:24 89:1 94:9	0
1	25:11,14 103:10	112:24 113:2	o 25:3 35:22
money 54:15,22	103:12		46:16 75:9
55:4,11 68:5	natural 127:9	117:19 122:23	77:10,15,20
monica 25:2,8	nature 13:6	123:3	78:2,5,8,11,14
month 40:24	31:21	ninety 8:3	78:15,23 79:7
41:4 76:6 78:2	necessarily	nj 3:8	79:11,16,19,20
95:18 96:5	24:13 54:20	non 75:5 119:24	79:21 80:2
132:16	106:21 110:24	124:12	103:5
monthly 74:24	115:20	normally 59:17	o'brien 27:3,18
75:1 76:11	necessary 66:19	north 2:7	28:13 62:8
months 26:13	need 7:7,16 11:8	notary 134:21	o'brien's 27:4
122:3	11:14 39:18	note 1:13 4:6	o'clock 117:17
morning 5:12	42:6 70:14	130:9 136:10	oath 5:16,17
5:17 43:8,13	71:20 73:14,21	notice 2:3 4:4	object 8:23
106:2 118:24	85:14 97:24	29:8,14 30:3	13:13 17:3,19
119:4 124:2		51:23 111:16,22	, ,
mornings 106:7	98:13 106:24	113:13 114:5	18:8,14,21
move 21:3 24:1	114:22 121:2,4	noticed 113:18	20:24 22:16
24:6 28:9	122:11 129:13	notices 96:7	23:2,8,23 24:9
movies 50:17,17	131:4,5 132:11	noticing 114:23	26:11,20 28:3
50:24 51:2,10	needed 120:11	november 41:1	28:22 29:11
moving 23:19	122:12 129:23	number 13:21	30:5 31:14
104:4 130:2	needs 73:8 97:1	21:5 38:18	32:10,20 33:4
104.4 130.2	106:19	21.3 30.10	34:22 35:5,14
	Voritort Loc		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[object - operating]

Page 155

37:19 38:6 39:6	125:16 127:1,18	17:4,23 18:19	88:15 89:9,11
39:23 40:12	131:16	19:16,19,22	91:1 92:6,18
41:15 42:8,15	objection 10:23	20:10,21 22:6	93:12 95:16
43:5,14,24 44:8	11:20 13:2,8	22:12,19,24	96:3,6,13 97:8
44:16 45:10,18	14:5,11 15:23	23:6 24:14,19	97:17,21,22
48:10,22 49:21	16:7,13,24 17:8	25:4,7,16,21	98:2,12 101:8
52:13,20 53:7	17:15 18:1	26:3,16 27:4	102:8,12,20
53:15 54:1,10	31:19 33:12,18	28:12 29:16	103:24 104:5,22
54:16 55:16,23	34:5,6,14 55:6,7	30:2,19 31:6	105:3 106:11
56:10,14,21	62:6 63:20	32:1,5,15 35:1,8	107:19 108:8
57:6,15 59:3,15	81:16 82:23	35:11,19 36:12	109:3,9 110:8
59:23 61:8	92:21,23 93:17	36:17 37:4,16	112:6,12 113:9
62:21 63:15	93:18 94:23,23	38:9 39:3,20	113:20 114:11
65:4 66:2 68:13	94:24 98:22	40:17,23 41:4,8	114:19 115:4,7
69:9 71:4,11,17	100:23 101:18	41:9,21 42:12	115:9,19 116:1
72:13 73:3,16	101:19 108:1	42:21 45:1,13	117:13 118:5,10
74:13 75:3	126:12,13	46:3,21 47:6,16	118:19,22 119:9
77:22 78:18	objections 2:16	47:19,22 48:2	119:15,20 120:7
79:14 80:4	obvious 73:13	48:14 49:17	120:13 121:6,13
81:15 82:1,10	occured 26:14	50:3,6,18 51:7	121:20 122:22
82:15 84:8 85:3	103:5 131:12	53:2,12,20 56:5	123:21 124:6
87:14 88:18	offer 53:17 59:5	58:1 59:1 60:18	128:12 130:7
89:6,14 90:12	offering 80:19	61:11,17,22	132:3,8,14,20
91:9,19 92:12	offers 32:3	62:2 64:3,13	133:1
93:6 95:22	officer 24:11	65:11 66:8	oklahoma 8:18
96:10 99:13	oh 9:21 30:19	67:15 68:8	9:12,15
100:2,15 101:5	111:5 112:12	69:13 70:22	old 109:7 128:5
103:1,19 104:15	113:4	71:15,24 72:5	olive 2:10
105:17 106:16	okay 5:20 6:1	72:18 74:3,16	once 38:11
107:8,12 109:15	7:24 8:4 9:8,16	75:1,14 76:1,13	ones 128:11
113:16 115:12	10:8,12,20	76:24 77:10,15	open 78:24
115:22 119:1,11	11:13,15,17,23	78:4 79:2,18	90:21
120:2,16 122:5	12:14,23 13:5	80:1,8,13 81:2	operating 86:24
123:1,7,16	14:2,8,14,19,23	81:13 83:4,20	87:9 88:16
124:9,19 125:7	15:8,17 16:5	83:23 84:4 88:6	120:5

Veritext Legal Solutions

[operation - permanent]

Page 156

operation 20:17	17:13,17,23	packet 78:8	partner 69:1
36:24	18:2 86:6 87:1,3	79:22	parts 69:1 98:2
operationally	87:17,23 88:13	page 7:17 66:13	108:6 126:19
76:17 78:7	88:17,23 89:1	66:14 67:10,12	passing 29:3
operations 19:3	93:3 101:13	88:21 98:9,10	past 17:5,10
19:11,14 20:5	104:13,19	98:10 99:3	104:12
21:12 22:8	115:21	116:16 121:6,10	pause 131:4
24:21 25:6,9	overcharging	128:14 134:2	133:2
37:7,8,15 45:23	56:19,23 57:2	pager 121:11	pay 49:19 52:24
58:14	70:24 89:13,20	paint 69:11	53:10 75:23
opinion 59:20	108:11 115:10	paragraph 64:5	pc 84:20 127:6
92:11 94:20	overlooked	64:7	pdf 34:18,19
opportunity	85:10	paren 90:22,23	pdf's 35:4
59:6	overpriced	part 20:22	pending 11:11
opposed 46:19	95:17 96:5	22:24 37:5,6	people 12:10
order 1:14 7:4,6	override 111:6	57:9 60:14,16	15:1 24:22
68:16,16 117:15	111:8,18,23	60:21 61:2,4	26:18 65:1
org's 21:3	112:8,14,19	69:4,4 71:14	117:24 125:14
organization	114:18,20	75:8,18 78:5	125:22
23:14,15	overrides	82:6 83:12 85:6	percentage
organizationally	108:19 110:12	89:16 91:24	33:10,16 34:3
85:7	111:2	95:8 97:11,19	perform 116:10
origin 98:7	oversee 35:18	111:9 112:10	performed 60:2
original 62:14	35:20	125:19 126:15	105:20 108:20
originated 10:3	overview 48:24	127:3 132:7	121:2
outcome 135:9	owe 71:2	participate	performing
outlier 106:22	own 120:23	12:23 13:4	118:4
outside 51:12	owned 49:11	particular 19:5	performs
overall 21:11	p	25:12 33:24	112:18
68:19	p 3:2,2	35:2 38:3 39:3,8	perimeter 80:24
overcharge	p.m. 133:4	58:19 65:8	period 43:20
77:21 95:14	package 86:20	73:24 74:5 82:5	96:5 100:20
114:17	92:7	82:5	101:11 104:4
overcharges	packaging	parties 135:9	permanent
10:22 17:3,7,11	75:15		129:14,23 130:1

Veritext Legal Solutions

[permanent - president]

Page 157

120.6 20	104.2 119.20	07.10 121.24	nmostices 00.17
130:6,20	104:3 118:20	97:19 121:24	practices 90:1,7
perpetual 49:10	130:5 131:7	122:12 130:10	91:7 94:15
127:9	placed 57:8	pointed 74:17	pre 49:19 74:22
person 22:2	plain 107:17	77:12 95:20	75:16,19,20,21
26:17,24 27:16	plaintiffs 1:4	121:3	76:10
35:2,21 91:17	2:3 3:3 16:22	points 68:9 69:2	predecessor
117:19 118:1	17:3	69:3,14 95:13	28:6
119:7,9,21	plan 46:16 75:9	96:7 121:18,22	preparation
123:19 127:20	77:10,15,20	121:23	13:19 14:24
person's 92:20	78:2,5,8,11,14	policy 88:3,12	61:23 86:10,15
personal 12:18	78:15,23 79:7	89:21,22,24	prepare 12:14
12:20	79:11,16,19,20	90:3,5,11,14,15	12:16
personally 13:4	79:21 80:2	90:17 91:4,6,13	prepared 12:17
personnel 95:12	103:5 128:16	94:12,14,16	61:6,6 74:11
perspective	130:20	95:20 96:8,12	120:5
45:22	plans 62:16	112:17,19,21	preparing 13:11
phone 31:4	play 45:12	113:11 118:10	63:2
49:16,18 50:6,9	please 5:12 7:20	119:21 120:12	present 3:13
50:16 51:2,10	11:9 12:11	126:9 127:15	44:2 61:17
phonetic 8:13	64:10 65:15	portal 4:7	62:10 63:11
phrase 44:18	66:18 67:20	portion 70:23	presentation
46:10	68:3 69:14 70:1	90:2	62:1 63:3,6,11
phrased 44:19	70:7 72:21 81:4	portions 1:13	63:14,18 64:23
pi 86:11	109:21	pos 40:4 78:17	68:22 69:1
pick 21:23	pllc 3:5	position 8:14	70:23 74:3,5,12
picked 70:3	plural 29:14	22:8	presented 61:15
picture 24:4	pod 114:3	possibly 13:24	63:14 67:6
69:8	point 9:18 26:18	post 4:7 28:17	presenter 62:12
piece 65:12	26:24 29:14	28:18,24	63:10 65:22
pieces 98:3	35:2,12 42:23	potential 127:22	68:16 71:23
place 38:11	66:9,11,12,17	powerpoint	presenters
40:24 79:8 81:8	67:16,19 68:2	34:19	64:24
83:7,11,13	68:10,17 70:7	practice 91:18	president 21:15
88:12 100:19	73:11 77:17	94:22	21:18 24:21
101:3 102:23	81:4,6 84:17		35:10 58:18,20

Veritext Legal Solutions

[president - product]

Page 158

58:21,23 59:6	130:18	print 39:13,18	prints 42:2	
presidents	priced 41:7	39:19 42:6 44:3	44:20 109:5	
37:14,15 74:2	66:22 67:8	44:5 105:11,16	128:10	
presume 36:15	70:14 75:16,19	106:4,20 107:4	prior 9:21 20:2	
pretty 11:14	75:20,21 76:9	107:7 108:21	20:4 27:18	
73:13	76:10	109:13 110:13	29:19 34:6 39:2	
prevent 11:3	prices 56:7	111:22,23	62:6 84:11	
104:19	64:15 66:5,10	112:24 113:8	88:13,17 101:19	
previous 108:20	66:19,20 69:7	114:1,6,7	126:13	
109:23	70:11 79:4,23	117:18 122:21	probably 11:13	
price 18:7,16,17	82:21,22 92:17	132:4,6	33:9 35:3 74:11	
29:4,24 37:17	106:14	printed 39:22	97:4,13 103:15	
37:24 38:2 39:4	pricing 10:21	42:6 43:3 44:12	problem 42:14	
40:3,5,10 41:13	14:22 17:3	44:14,15,21	procedure 2:14	
41:24 42:14,17	23:22 24:8,15	45:4,7,15 46:1	87:1 88:16	
42:19,20,23	26:10 28:18	74:22 85:2	95:11 120:5	
43:1,7,10 44:14	29:1,9 30:3	106:9,11,18,21	procedures 87:9	
44:21 45:16	38:18 53:22	107:2,2 108:13	95:8	
46:8 47:20,22	57:24 66:7 70:9	109:11,24 114:8	proceeding 7:3	
48:3,4,9 49:14	70:18,20 72:2,6	114:10	135:5	
52:12,16,18	72:10 74:18,22	printer 72:20,22	process 40:3,5	
53:4,14,18 56:6	77:1,12 78:12	73:9,12,14 85:5	40:20,20,21,23	
56:24 57:11,12	79:12 81:6,9,14	85:6 105:10,16	41:19 78:5 85:7	
75:22 76:23	81:21,24 82:8	106:23 107:1,18	110:11 113:15	
78:9 79:20	82:14 83:6,8,11	107:23,23 108:4	114:1,9 123:23	
80:12 89:18,18	83:14,18 84:1	108:5 113:8	126:3,6	
90:19,20,20,21	84:19 91:14	printers 73:1,6	processes 81:8	
90:22 91:3,4	95:12 99:5,12	84:20 107:7,11	83:7,13 113:22	
92:1 93:10,13	99:24 101:4,13	107:20	produce 34:20	
93:14 94:18,19	102:6,17 103:18	printing 40:21	produced 60:20	
94:20,21 108:19	104:13 108:10	41:19 42:13,17	60:23 61:1,1	
110:12 114:15	115:18 117:12	43:18 72:11	product 18:11	
114:17,20	126:18 128:19	106:13 108:23	38:3 47:23,24	
128:18 129:5,13	128:22 130:22	109:1,2,6,7,12	48:2,3,5 53:5,14	
129:22 130:14	131:1,2	110:6,8,10	53:18 76:8,10	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[product - received]

Page 159

	T			
79:12,16 95:16	provisions 2:13	quick 7:1 60:13	76:20 98:7	
96:4 135:14	public 134:21	116:15 117:17	103:22 110:20	
product's 90:20	purchase 32:7	quickly 62:2	120:17 124:15	
products 38:1	32:17,19 52:19	73:15	124:21	
46:18 47:9,10	purchasers 33:2	quite 102:21	reason 70:17	
47:12,16,17,18	33:11,17 34:4	quote 90:22	76:20 107:22	
47:20 48:8,17	purpose 126:9	r	136:11	
48:19 49:3,3,4	pursuant 2:3,12	r 3:2 25:3 135:1	reasonable	
49:15 50:8 51:8	7:6	rally 70:16	32:19,22 56:12	
75:2,5,7 92:4	push 111:8	rang 113:19	reasons 21:5	
129:3	put 6:24 31:12	range 13:24	45:8 96:1,2	
program 30:11	31:17 67:2	97:6	108:5,7	
30:18,21 31:11	101:3 102:12	rate 17:13	rebecca 27:3,4	
31:23 35:13,18	104:3 110:16,17	rather 6:11,12	27:11,17,18	
35:20 104:11,17	q	115:21	28:12 62:8,10	
105:6,6 108:18	qualified 125:4	razor 41:6	62:12,15,16	
118:15	qualifies 124:17	43:10,21 111:12	63:11	
programs 30:22	qualify 54:4	111:13	rebecca's 28:5	
99:6,10,10,24	quantify 29:13	reach 72:19	63:22	
100:5 101:11	quantity 39:17	73:12,14,21	recall 8:11,12	
102:3 104:17,18	quantity 39.17 quarterly 33:19	reached 101:15	9:17,24 10:2,4	
104:20 105:1,4	33:20 34:11	read 64:1,10	13:17 16:18,20	
promotion 28:2		65:7,15 66:17	31:10 34:1,8	
28:5 59:7	question 2:17	67:19 68:3,12	46:8 58:16	
prompt 122:17	6:10,10,17 7:20	·	64:19 81:11	
protection 21:7	11:11 15:19	69:13 71:16	84:10 86:23	
21:8,10,13,14	16:15 21:24	77:17 81:4 90:7	88:20 89:10	
21:16 22:3,22	26:7 30:2 60:13	90:18,23 134:2	100:24 101:7	
23:12,20 24:2,7	61:10 90:3,15	136:9	102:18 103:7,11	
protective 1:14	94:6 97:10,14	reading 19:22	103:12 131:20	
7:4,6	99:22 115:17	91:8 98:20	receipt 136:18	
provide 39:9	126:4	reads 88:11	receive 78:21	
51:5 69:18	questioned 94:3	90:6 134:2	112:4,7,15	
100:17 105:21	questions 5:21	real 7:1 113:10	received 37:23	
	5:22 6:8 13:11	really 12:17	59:5 78:16	
	36:13	23:11 63:2		
Variant I agal Salutions				

Veritext Legal Solutions

[received - requirement]

Page 160

- -			•
112:9	reflecting 42:13	reinforced	report 21:7
receives 106:7	reformulation	73:21	22:22 23:19
recent 7:24 8:2	129:3	relate 26:10	24:19,20,22
9:20 125:10	refresh 60:8	related 8:8	28:13 46:2,6,7,9
recently 87:19	71:20 86:2	10:10,18 12:18	46:11,11 65:17
recess 36:1	regard 74:17	17:6 29:9 37:17	105:13,20
85:18	101:4	37:23 57:24	reportables
recognize 98:2	regarding 88:13	70:10 77:5	24:23
recollection	88:23 102:17	87:23 88:16	reported 22:15
68:21	region 25:12	99:11 116:21	135:6
record 5:8,9,13	regional 37:13	135:8	reporter 1:13
6:2,5 7:1,8	61:16 74:1	relates 23:22	4:6 5:5,6,21
19:19 21:22	register 18:7,16	29:2 40:10	7:12,14,16
52:6 66:18	31:11 40:4,6,15	45:16 77:1	135:5,12
67:20 82:12	42:19,24 43:1	86:17	reporters 131:5
85:20 135:6	43:13 49:12	relevant 101:11	133:3
recording 5:22	53:1,11,19 56:6	104:3	reporting 1:16
recovery 128:19	56:20,23,24	reliable 126:23	3:16,17 24:7
128:22	57:12 66:22	rely 42:3 52:18	135:12,14,22
reducing 103:17	69:21 78:17	53:4 67:22	reports 26:8
reduction 80:12	79:21,24 82:22	81:18	46:4
refer 49:8 58:23	89:18 90:21	remember 31:6	represent 97:6
72:9	91:15 92:2,10	31:8,20 33:23	representative
reference 67:11	93:11,13 94:21	67:5	9:9,11 10:5
referenced	106:15 110:22	repair 73:7	represented
128:24 136:6	119:7	repeat 33:2,7,11	11:18
referred 47:2	regular 33:20	33:17 34:3	reproduction
49:6	85:9 107:11	rephrase 6:13	135:15
referring 30:17	109:6	44:24 94:9	request 113:7
46:12 76:24	regularly 47:16	replaced 47:17	114:6,7
88:24	regulatory	replenish 48:20	requests 13:1,7
refers 49:9	86:17	replenished	required 101:2
72:15	rehearsals	46:17 47:8,17	120:13
reflected 114:15	63:24	47:18 75:8	requirement
			118:23

Veritext Legal Solutions

[requirements - scenario]

Page 161

requirements	103:8	89:19 90:8,23	salary 122:22
100:6 125:12	resulted 114:17	91:16 92:4 93:5	salar y 122.22 sale 42:23 63:18
requires 81:14	results 131:15	93:12 96:9 99:2	114:14
82:21 127:16	retail 21:2 92:14	102:18 104:23	sales 76:20 96:4
reread 102:2	92:15	104:24 106:10	114:2,5,24
research 35:16	return 136:13	106:15 108:16	115:8
reserved 2:16	136:17	109:6,8 111:4	satisfaction
reset 77:20	reveal 34:2	112:2,8,20	18:6,23 71:7
78:15,16 79:7,7	review 14:9,16	116:23 117:24	satisfied 66:4
79:20 114:3	62:1 86:11,12	119:7 121:13	satisfying 64:16
resets 77:16	89:8 136:7	122:2 123:13,24	64:18
78:2	reviewed 13:18	124:2,24 125:2	sav 36:4
resides 46:16	16:5,12,17 45:3	128:7 129:7	savaloja 1:11
resolved 72:21	61:23 62:4 86:9	130:3 132:10	2:1 5:1,14,15
resource 106:5	86:14,19,22	ring 43:22 53:19	36:2,4,5,6 136:1
resources	87:2 89:5	110:23,24	136:5
105:13	reviewing 114:4	ringing 111:16	saw 33:23
respectful 36:9	revision 84:11	118:1	saying 24:17
respects 102:5	reward 35:13	rings 18:12,16	93:15,16 111:21
response 73:6	35:18,20	111:15	says 20:23 44:20
129:11	rewards 30:18	role 91:11,22,24	67:7 80:13
responsibilities	31:22	127:21	94:16 95:15
23:1 25:11,12	richmond 3:12	room 12:5,10	115:7
25:15 26:5	right 5:15 6:7	15:1	sbt 49:7 50:9,10
127:11,21	6:20 10:8 20:21	roughly 15:3	50:12,13,20,20
responsible	30:17 33:3,10	round 19:5	50:23 51:1,8
22:3 41:23	42:14 44:7 45:8	rule 81:22	scan 49:6 86:18
106:8 117:16	45:9 48:17	rules 2:13	98:23 113:6
125:14	49:14 51:22	run 110:24	130:17,24 131:9
responsive	52:5 57:5 58:11	S	131:12,15 132:3
12:24	63:1,5 67:12	s 3:2 25:1	scanned 90:22
rest 87:10	68:2 69:8 71:10	safety 4:5 96:24	scanning 131:2
restate 16:14	73:10,15 75:23	98:13,19 117:17	scenario 44:2
result 77:21	76:2 77:17 79:1	122:16 126:18	78:10 109:20
101:15 102:23	80:14 81:2	127:22 128:15	113:4
	1	I .	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[scenarios - shipped]

Page 162

scenarios	96:22 98:10	99:4	shared 24:13
129:20	106:3 108:13	sentences 121:4	33:21 109:24
schedule 119:3	111:14 113:12	separate 87:9	sharing 85:11
schematic 78:9	114:21 128:16	99:22 101:9	110:1
script 4:4 61:14	130:15	102:8 114:1	sheet 134:1
61:18,19,20	seeing 86:3	122:19	136:11
65:23 69:4,5	114:5 115:7	separately	shelby 135:3
73:24	seems 73:13	75:12	shelf 18:11,17
scroll 98:1	seen 16:2 33:14	series 5:20	39:11,12 40:11
season 48:19,21	45:2 46:10 52:3	120:19	42:7,20 44:7
seasonal 46:19	52:4 57:22	serves 71:10	52:12,16,18,23
46:22 48:2,3,8	58:19 84:24	service 4:5 86:5	53:4,10 56:7
48:17 49:4	86:6 87:16	services 135:16	57:1,3,8,13
75:10,13,15,18	97:15,23 129:9	serving 54:12	64:16 66:5,21
seat 93:1	sees 109:10	66:6	66:23 72:6
second 6:23 7:7	select 14:8,9	session 70:12	74:22 76:7
9:19 27:10	selected 14:13	82:6	78:12 82:21
32:24 62:5	selecting 14:15	sessions 14:24	89:17 90:20
65:12 74:16	sell 48:18	set 74:18 76:8	91:3,14 92:1,8
108:16,18 131:4	sells 49:19	76:15,21 77:3,6	93:10,14 94:18
section 64:20	send 70:13	78:12,24 79:3,3	94:20 96:6
75:2,16	86:18 113:7	79:5,10,22,23	111:1,14,24
sections 74:21	121:11,12	80:2 103:6	113:5 114:15
75:12 76:15	130:24	sets 76:18,22	119:19 129:17
see 28:8 42:3	senior 19:2,10	setting 76:21	130:22
43:9 51:16,21	20:5,16 22:8	77:19 98:15	shift 30:8 116:9
51:22 52:1,2	25:5 36:23	settlement	116:19 117:1,5
60:10 62:8	37:14 58:18,21	100:22	117:14,20 119:3
63:12 64:5,8	58:22	seven 26:13	119:22 120:1,15
65:13 66:8,16	sense 23:16	117:1,7,17	121:8 123:15
67:17 72:3,7,22	sent 43:11	118:7,24 119:6	124:8 126:11
74:18 77:13	121:18 136:14	121:3	127:17
80:1 81:1 83:15	sentence 64:6	shape 67:23	ship 47:5 50:2
83:18 84:21	64:10 65:11	share 45:20	shipped 47:13
89:2 92:8 95:9	72:19 94:16	84:15 100:4	47:15

Veritext Legal Solutions

[shopping - started]

Page 163

shopping 56:2	simply 39:11	89:8,11,16 90:5	95:8
shops 69:19	67:6	93:2 95:8	specifics 82:17
short 83:17	single 70:20	sop's 81:7 83:7	82:20 83:2
shortly 60:11	116:19	83:10,13 86:12	103:7 125:3
74:11	singular 26:17	89:5	132:1
shoulder 123:19	sir 11:7 12:8,13	sorry 36:20	speculating
123:19 131:22	15:12 16:1	50:11 70:15	99:17 125:1
131:22	26:13 36:16	81:5 110:18	spelled 35:22
show 65:23	75:24 87:15,15	116:12 128:12	spend 54:15,22
69:20 107:1	116:22	131:10	55:5,11 68:5
showing 44:13	sister 107:3	sort 8:6 10:16	spending 55:21
61:19	sits 21:11	100:21 105:7	55:22 56:4
shows 98:18	sitting 11:24	107:6 125:11,23	spent 131:1
103:23 131:15	12:1 51:7 60:16	sorts 35:4	spreadsheet
131:18	situation 18:3	sound 44:19	131:14
side 6:16 21:19	situations 17:17	sounds 20:10	spreadsheets
22:4 23:15	17:23 111:1	22:12 39:20	60:23
35:17	skills 135:7	62:23 69:6	st 87:11,18,24
siegel 25:1	slide 33:23 61:5	70:22 101:13	stand 74:23
sign 31:10	64:6,20 66:9,11	south 58:24	standard 86:24
124:14 136:12	71:24 81:3	southern 1:1	88:16 120:4
signage 95:13	slides 60:21,22	speak 90:2	stands 47:4
96:9	slot 115:16	104:20 124:11	83:22
signaled 114:20	small 121:3	124:15	start 5:4 20:15
signature 2:19	software 43:12	speaking 69:2	20:19 24:6
133:6 134:18	sold 49:13	special 125:5	38:16,20 39:5
135:21	solution 129:24	specialty 107:6	39:10,16 50:11
signed 31:6,9	130:1	specific 19:8	89:21 113:14
136:20	solutions 136:23	30:2 64:3 65:10	117:7 118:15
signing 41:23	somebody 64:20	68:20 72:1	120:22,23
signs 80:8,15	soon 117:3	74:16 77:11	121:15 122:9,19
81:1	sop 4:5 86:5,13	84:1 87:16,22	124:1
simplistic	86:21 87:4,16	115:20 125:9	started 6:24
120:18,19	87:21,22 88:4,6	specifically	22:7 58:13
	88:8,13,17 89:2	87:17,23 90:5	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[starting - system]

Page 164

starting 69:14	stop 85:15	store's 57:9	sullivan 25:2,8
122:22	store 19:3,11,14	94:12	supervisors
starts 65:12	20:5,6,8,17,18	stores 37:8,17	15:14
66:9 67:16 72:6	20:23 21:6,12	38:15,19 48:18	supplies 84:21
72:10 97:6	22:8,9,14,21	54:15 66:22	supply 29:3
117:1	23:4,14,19 24:1	67:8 68:4 72:19	47:14 129:2
state 5:12 8:17	24:6,21 25:6,8	72:21 73:12,21	support 23:14
10:2 83:4 91:12	26:15,19 27:6	77:3 78:21 81:8	73:7 129:21
100:20 101:2,16	27:19 36:23	83:7,11,13	130:11
102:14 135:2,5	37:7,8 38:4 39:2	84:18 85:1 87:6	supporting
stated 89:16	39:14,15 40:10	88:23 89:1	124:1,4 129:16
90:9,15 91:1	41:13,22,23	106:3,8 107:22	129:17 130:19
statement 53:23	42:2,4,13,17	108:13 110:12	supposed 43:3
56:9 64:14 77:2	43:17 44:3	126:5 131:21	76:19 79:8
81:10,12,23	45:17,23,24	132:6	109:4
82:3,8 83:10,12	55:1,22 61:5	strategic 128:20	sure 9:13 16:16
statements 64:3	62:24 65:18	street 3:5,12	19:24 29:2 37:6
68:12 71:16,22	70:13 72:24	stress 67:7 85:7	39:18 50:17
states 1:1 64:7	78:8,16 79:9,10	stretch 67:22	53:3 54:23 64:4
72:19 77:15	80:14,23 84:20	stretching 67:24	85:12,16 98:7
83:5,16 87:5	85:9,9 92:7	strive 89:17	107:16 111:12
88:22 90:16	95:12,18,19,20	91:24	116:16,17
94:13 99:5	96:7 105:11	strives 89:12	132:11
102:9 128:15,18	106:23,24 107:3	90:18 94:17	suspect 11:13
132:23	108:20 109:3,9	striving 91:2	sustain 128:20
stating 93:13	110:14 111:9	struck 68:21,21	swap 133:3
stay 59:11 130:5	112:17 114:8,10	subject 1:14	sweep 117:17
stayed 59:12	115:2 117:21,24	15:22 36:14	122:16
steps 38:5,10,11	118:6,8,12,23	45:21 124:23	sworn 5:2
39:12 41:12,17	122:23 123:22	subscribed	134:20
110:7	124:7,12 126:17	134:20	symbolize 67:24
stick 82:12	127:6 130:17,23	sued 8:7	synergies 24:3
sticker 60:4	130:24 131:3,8	suggesting	system 38:16,17
96:18,21	131:15 132:3,22	84:24	39:5 41:19
			110:11 120:21

Veritext Legal Solutions

[system - terms] Page 165

121:15 131:19	131:19	68:13 69:9 71:4	team's 45:21
systemically	tasks 42:4 121:2	71:11,17 72:13	teams 37:9,10
45:22	126:22	73:3,16 74:13	37:12,17 131:22
t	tax 69:20	75:3 77:22	tell 23:6 40:3
t 25:3,3 135:1,1	taylor 2:9 3:11	78:18 79:14	52:24 60:19
take 11:8,10,14	6:23 8:23 10:23	80:4 81:15 82:1	61:12 80:14,16
24:2 41:12	11:20 12:6 13:2	82:10,15,23	80:17 81:19,20
75:11 79:8	13:8,13 14:5,11	84:8 85:3,13	86:22 101:24
89:23 97:4,23	15:8,23 16:7,13	87:14 88:18	104:4 105:1
110:13 111:14	16:24 17:8,15	89:6,14 90:12	106:7
121:5 131:7	17:19 18:1,8,14	91:9,19 92:12	telling 62:24
133:2	18:21 20:24	92:21 93:6,17	79:9 90:10
taken 2:1,12	22:16 23:2,8,23	94:1,23 95:4,22	101:14 118:7,14
105:9,12,19	24:9 26:11,20	96:10,19,22	118:16 119:20
103.5,12,15	28:3,22 29:11	97:9,17 98:22	tells 39:17 95:19
takes 111:18	30:5 31:14,19	99:13 100:2,15	temporary 76:5
114:9	32:10,20 33:4	100:23 101:5,18	76:5 80:12
talk 15:13 75:11	33:12,18 34:5	103:1,19 104:15	130:3
84:18 102:13	34:14,22 35:5	105:17 106:16	ten 85:14 121:4
talked 10:8	35:14 37:19	107:8,12 108:1	tennessee 2:7,10
15:21 72:9,16	38:6 39:6,23	109:15 110:19	3:6,18 12:4
91:5 105:9	40:12 41:15	113:16 115:12	135:2,5,11,15
110:10 120:20	42:8,15 43:5,14	115:22 119:1,11	135:23
122:15,15 128:9	43:24 44:8,16	120:2,16 122:5	tenure 58:9
128:10	45:10,18 48:10	123:1,7,16	term 30:12
talking 38:13	48:22 49:21	124:9,19 125:7	42:18
48:8 73:19	50:19 52:13,20	125:16 126:12	terminal 113:7
104:1 116:19	53:7,15 54:1,10	127:1,18 131:16	122:18 127:23
131:8 132:12	54:16 55:6,16	132:11	terminated 9:6
talks 71:24	55:23 56:10,14	team 23:16 24:3	termination 8:9
task 38:17,20	56:21 57:6,15	39:15 40:8,19	terms 2:13
41:18,18 42:10	59:3,15,23	42:22 70:15,15	45:23 72:2
117:8 120:21,22	60:12,18 61:8	84:15 123:9	91:12 105:4,24
121:15 122:4,9	62:5,21 63:15	124:22 125:12	106:1 107:3
122:20 124:3,14	63:20 65:4 66:2		124:21 126:17
	1		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[terms - tpr] Page 166

	1		1
129:13 131:10	27:10 29:18,21	tie 127:9	titles 20:12 25:4
territories 58:22	31:20 35:20	time 10:14,19	tn 1:17
testified 5:3	36:9,22 37:22	11:9 22:12,19	today 5:21 6:2,9
9:20	39:8 50:7 52:9	29:5,20 33:20	7:20 8:1,2 11:4
testify 104:22	56:1,16 57:11	43:2 45:16	12:15 13:19
testifying 5:18	58:6 61:4 65:2	58:14 65:23	14:16,18,20
11:4	67:17,21 68:17	76:15,22 77:3,6	15:1 38:11
testimony 34:6	73:18 76:11	77:16,20 78:17	40:24 51:7,24
37:23 62:6	77:10 80:7,18	81:20 83:23	52:3,4 60:17
101:19 126:13	81:2 82:3 89:4	84:2 85:2 94:10	61:24 70:4
136:9,18	94:2 96:17	97:24 98:16	108:11
thankfully	99:18 103:14	100:20 101:11	today's 12:16
107:21	104:17,23 105:6	104:3 105:9	41:1
theft 135:16	109:21 117:23	113:10 114:3	told 42:21 120:8
theme 68:19	121:1 122:14	121:12 122:12	123:11
thing 7:7 44:7	127:5,6,7,24	123:19 125:4	toner 85:5 108:6
64:1,7,11 74:16	128:9 130:8,17	130:10,20 131:1	tony 25:2,5
77:11 100:10	131:10 132:2	133:4 136:19	took 5:16 88:6
105:7 108:9	thinker 59:18	timeframe	102:23 118:16
110:21 117:10	thinks 43:21	136:8	130:13
122:16 125:4	third 77:11	timely 42:6 45:4	tool 106:4
127:5 130:3	84:17 115:9,14	72:11	130:10
things 7:1 29:1	thirty 14:3,3	times 60:24 63:5	toolbox 130:11
29:24 30:10,16	thought 50:22	93:18	tools 83:15
30:23 31:12,21	53:3 56:7	timing 103:5	84:17 124:1
32:7 33:10	110:23 111:5	title 19:1,2,4,6,8	127:12
60:24 67:11	116:12	19:8,17 20:2,4	topic 14:17,20
72:1 111:7	thread 61:2	20:16,20,23	14:21
117:15,16 127:8	three 15:4 17:5	22:13 27:5,8,9	total 14:4 56:6
129:12	17:10 83:17	27:13,14,17,24	69:23
think 7:7,18	84:13 93:18	35:9 36:18,23	touch 59:11,12
9:21 11:16	101:12 104:5,7	37:1,3,5,7 46:6	towards 65:23
13:22 15:4	104:13 111:5	46:9 58:16	65:23
21:24 22:6	113:23,24	titled 64:5 86:5	tpr 80:8
23:18 24:1	114:13,13		

[tpr's - unprecedented]

Page 167

tpr's 80:11	77:1 94:9,11	75:11 87:6 96:1	113:12 128:18
track 13:20	114:11	104:1 114:12	undergraduate
32:18 45:3,6,15	tuesday 38:23	117:16,24 118:8	25:19
55:21 56:3	39:1,21 41:20	118:23 119:4	underneath
69:19	42:5 43:2,8,13	122:14	99:4
trade 49:6 90:1	46:8 72:12,15	type 8:4 15:18	understand
90:7 91:7 94:14	106:13 109:4	50:8 100:9	5:16,19,23 6:11
trained 80:23	110:14 111:9	110:9	8:19 9:13 76:16
training 61:15	112:21 116:5,7	types 34:16	77:10 80:7 81:3
83:15 84:17	116:9 117:2,3,5	46:18,22 49:15	92:24 100:11,14
120:13 122:11	117:9,10,11,12	111:7	111:12 114:12
122:12 123:12	117:20 118:24	typical 26:6	125:2
123:13,18 125:5	119:4 120:1,15	53:13 124:6	understanding
transcript 1:13	120:22 121:8,12	125:23	8:21 9:1,4,5
19:23 135:6,14	121:18,19,21,24	typically 34:17	16:21 17:2 32:9
136:6,20	122:4,14,18,20	48:18,18 50:1,2	32:12,14 33:15
transcripts 7:3	123:14,22 124:2	75:13,15 110:6	91:17 92:19,20
transfer 135:15	124:8,13 125:15	114:13 129:18	110:2
transition 26:14	126:11,19	u	understands
transitioned	127:17 128:11	u 25:2	70:18
27:11	129:10 130:12	ug 6:4	understood
translate 91:22	131:2	uh 6:3 62:9	6:18 9:19 20:1
trees 46:20	tuesdays 39:10	104:6	93:5,8 98:6
trent 3:11 12:6	118:8 119:22	ulster 87:11,18	128:1
60:17 97:14	turn 98:8 113:4	87:24 88:24	unfair 18:13,19
true 28:15,16	128:12,14	89:1	89:24 90:7 91:7
135:6	turned 46:1	umbrella 21:12	94:14
trustworthy	turning 97:3,5	unacceptable	unique 84:5
126:23 127:15	twelve 41:7	17:13	united 1:1 87:5
truthfully 11:4	twenty 13:23,24	unauthorized	132:23
try 6:3,7 20:12	twice 92:22	135:15	unprecedented
23:21 51:21	two 10:9 15:1	under 35:24	29:1,5,24 129:4
55:20 105:3	19:23 23:17	51:24 64:5,20	129:12,22
trying 36:8 53:5	51:9 58:22	66:9,11 71:24	130:18
69:6,11 70:23	69:14 70:1	83:15 84:17	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[unreasonable - witness]

Page 168

unreasonable vermont 100:20 w 46:22,23 51: 53:4 101:2,16 102:14 w 25:3 uploaded 4:6 102:16,21,24 wage 123:6 upper 67:6 103:3,10 104:9 wait 62:5 112:7 122:15,15 use 31:22 32:1,2 61:20,21 62:20 waits 79:10 wednesday used 63:1,14 63:23 84:11 waived 2:15,20 106:2,6,12,19 uses 32:16 versus 132:12 walk 38:4,10 week 39:22 using 61:17 24:21 35:10 56:2 68:4,6,18 78:20 108:21 78:20 108:21 86:20 105:6 37:14,14 58:20 58:21,23 59:6 123:23 110:12 112:8	5 3,6 ,22
uploaded 4:6 102:16,21,24 wage 123:6 112:3 113:22 upper 67:6 use 31:22 32:1,2 version 61:14 wait 62:5 112:7 122:15,15 79:6 129:5 61:20,21 62:20 waits 79:10 wednesday used 63:1,14 62:24 63:13,21 waived 2:15,20 133:6 uses 32:16 versus 132:12 walk 38:4,10 38:4,10 using 61:17 vice 21:15,18 43:19,20 44:3 usually 7:11 24:21 35:10 56:2 68:4,6,18 77:24 80:13,23 utilized 130:16 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23 utilized 130:16 102:16,21,24 usually 7:11 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23 utilized 130:16 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23) 5 3,6 ,22
uploaded 4:6 upper 67:6 use 31:22 32:1,2 79:6 129:5 used 63:1,14 136:20 uses 32:16 using 61:17 usually 7:11 86:20 105:6 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 120:16 12) 5 3,6 ,22
upper 67:6 use 103:3,10 104:9 version wait 62:5 112:7 112:15 113:18 version 122:15,15 129:13 version used 63:1,14 136:20 uses 62:24 63:13,21 63:23 84:11 versus 63:23 84:11 versus 133:6 versus 122:15,15 12:7 129:13 vednesday 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12,19 106:2,6,12	5 3,6 ,22
use 31:22 32:1,2 version 61:14 79:6 129:5 61:20,21 62:20 waits 79:10 used 63:1,14 62:24 63:13,21 waived 2:15,20 136:20 63:23 84:11 waived 2:15,20 uses 32:16 versus 132:12 using 61:17 vice 21:15,18 usually 7:11 24:21 35:10 86:20 105:6 37:14,14 58:20 58:21 23 50:6 utilized 130:16	5 3,6 ,22
79:6 129:5 used 63:1,14 136:20 62:24 63:13,21 63:23 84:11 versus 132:12 using 61:17 usually 7:11 86:20 105:6 130:16 61:20,21 62:20 62:24 63:13,21 63:23 84:11 133:6 walk 38:4,10 54:14 55:3,22 56:2 68:4,6,18 77:24 80:13,23 106:2,6,12,19 108:14 112:1 108:14 112:1 109:10,23 110:12 112:8	5 3,6 ,22
used 63:1,14 62:24 63:13,21 waived 2:15,20 106:2,6,12,19 136:20 63:23 84:11 133:6 108:14 112:1 uses 32:16 vice 21:15,18 vice 21:15,18 43:19,20 44:3 usually 7:11 24:21 35:10 56:2 68:4,6,18 78:20 108:21 37:14,14 58:20 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23 109:10,23 110:12:112:8 110:12:112:8	5 3,6 ,22
136:20 uses 32:16 using 61:17 usually 7:11 86:20 105:6 using 63:23 84:11 86:20 105:6 using 63:23 84:11 133:6 walk 38:4,10 54:14 55:3,22 56:2 68:4,6,18 77:24 80:13,23	3,6 ,22
uses 32:16 versus 132:12 walk 38:4,10 week 39:22 usually 7:11 24:21 35:10 54:14 55:3,22 78:20 108:21 s6:20 105:6 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23 109:10,23 utilized 130:16 58:21 23 50:6	,22
using 61:17 vice 21:15,18 54:14 55:3,22 43:19,20 44:3 usually 7:11 24:21 35:10 56:2 68:4,6,18 78:20 108:21 utilized 130:16 58:21 23 50:6 77:24 80:13,23 110:12 112:8	,22
usually 7:11 24:21 35:10 56:2 68:4,6,18 78:20 108:21 86:20 105:6 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23 109:10,23 utilized 130:16 58:21 23 50:6 71:24 80:13,23 110:12 112:8	
86:20 105:6 37:14,14 58:20 77:24 80:13,23 109:10,23	,16
ntilized 120.16 50.21 22 50.6	,16
utilizing 127:23 74:1 want 19:23 118:17,19	
video 120:24 vant 13.23 129:19 130:1	3
v 136:4 121:1 53:2,18 76:18 130:16 131:1	,11
validating 131:2 videoconferen 76:21 86:2 97:9 131:12,21 13	2:9
validating 131.2 2:5 104:10 110:20 132:15	
valuation videographer 104.10 110.20 weekly 38:12	,21
variety 54:19 5:5,7 wanted 6:24 38:22 47:18	
various 57:23 view 51:17 60:8 wanting 127:14 80:20	
99:24 violation 106:12 wants 111:3 weeks 122:3	
vary 82:4 120:12 135:15 watching 70:6 131:11 132:8	
valy 32.4 vehicle 38:18 violations 99:5 watching way 10:17,21 went 28:10/32	2:5
vendor 49:11,17 99:6,11 100:1 way 10:17,21 37:2 41:17 17:21 29:7 43:4 37:2 41:17	
49:19 50:1 101:13 102:6,17 44:19 47:23 63:23 88:9	
vendors 29:3 103:18 104:14 48:4,6,21 49:23 107:23 118:2	0
vendors 29.3 47:1,6 129:6 virginia 3:12 50:4 54:20 westminster	
venued 9:12,13 vise 58:18 60:20 84:12 25:19,21	
verify 136:9 visible 29:22,23 94:9 97:15 wheel 60:10	
veritext 1:16 39:1,17 42:1 109:19 114:7 whitmore 25:	3
3:17 4:6 135:22 visits 86:17 109:19 114.7 wide 54:19	
136:14,23 volume 133:4 129:10,17,21 113:22	
veritext.com vs 1:5 we've 10:8 witness 2:8,1	
136:15 We ve 10.3 50:22 94:2)
150.15)

Veritext Legal Solutions

[witness - zoom] Page 169

132:13 136:8,10	wow 7:24	29:7 58:8	
136:12,19	writ 93:3	101:12 102:21	
wolf 1:3 136:4	write 66:24 68:8	103:4,15 104:5	
wondering 55:2	68:10 81:10	104:7,13 129:8	
107:19	writing 117:9	yellow 96:17	
woods 3:11	written 13:11	yesterday 15:7	
word 19:13	71:23	york 1:1 14:21	
46:12 48:15	wrong 16:23	58:24 82:14,17	
59:17 67:2	48:12 92:16	82:21 83:3 87:7	
92:19 121:4	109:22 110:3	87:13,18,24	
129:5	wrongly 9:6	88:24 89:1	
words 27:1	wrote 65:3,10	122:24 123:3	
68:17 91:22,23	65:20 81:11	Z	
work 43:4 58:2	wrung 66:21	zach 67:5	
73:2 76:2	X	zip 31:18,21	
105:19 109:19	x 4:1 18:11	zip 51.16,21 zoom 2:5,6	
110:6 116:24		21:21	
135:14	y	21.21	
workday 26:6	yeah 24:17,18		
worked 58:3,5	30:13 55:18		
68:7 125:19	71:21 98:1,8		
workers 15:14	110:1 128:5,8		
15:21	132:6,13		
working 57:20	year 19:9,18,20		
72:22 73:9	22:14 26:17		
84:19 85:5	27:12 29:17		
105:15 106:23	41:2 74:7,8,12		
108:6 127:11	83:24 84:3,7		
131:22	116:4 117:4		
works 48:21,24	118:21 129:12		
49:24 50:5	131:11,11,13		
92:14 109:18	132:12,12,15,18		
world 29:2	132:19,21		
107:21	years 9:23 17:5		
	17:10 19:23		

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- (e) Review By the Witness; Changes.
- (1) Review; Statement of Changes. On request by the deponent or a party before the deposition is completed, the deponent must be allowed 30 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available in which:
- (A) to review the transcript or recording; and
- (B) if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement listing the changes and the reasons for making them.
- (2) Changes Indicated in the Officer's Certificate. The officer must note in the certificate prescribed by Rule 30(f)(1) whether a review was requested and, if so, must attach any changes the deponent makes during the 30-day period.

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ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,

2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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		Page 136
1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
2	FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
3		-
3 4	JOSEPH WOLF, CARMEN WOLF,	
	ON BEHALF OF THEMSELVES AND THOSE	
5	SIMILARLY SITUATED,	
6	Plaintiffs,	
7	v. Case No. 7:23-cv-00558-PMH	
8	Dollar General CORPORATION,	
9	DOLGEN NEW YORK, LLC D/B/A	
9	DOLGEN, DOLGENCORP OF TEXAS, INC., INDIVIDUALLY, JOINTLY,	
10	SEVERALLY, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE,	
11	Defendants.	
12		_
13		
	DEPOSITION	
14		
1 F	OF	
15	MIA SAVALOJA	
16	MIA SAVALOJA	
10	December 14, 2023	
17		
18		
	VOLUME II	
19		
20		
21	ALPHA REPORTING, A VERITEXT COMPANY	
2.2	236 Adams Avenue	
22	Memphis, TN 38103 901-523-8974	
23	901-222-09/4	
24		

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305-376-8800

Page 137 The deposition of MIA SAVALOJA is 1 2 taken on this, the 14th day of December, 2023, 3 on behalf of the Defendant, pursuant to notice and consent of counsel, beginning at 4 5 approximately 2:30 p.m. 6 This deposition is taken pursuant to 7 the terms and provisions of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. 8 9 All forms and formalities, including the signature of the witness, are not waived, 10 11 and objections alone as to matters of competency, irrelevancy and immateriality of 12 the testimony are reserved to be presented and 13 disposed of at or before the hearing. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

800-726-7007 305-376-8800

2.4

	Page 138
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		Page 139
1 2	I N D E X EXAMINATION INDEX	
3	MIA SAVALOJA DIRECT BY MR. EDWARDS 141	
4 5		
	EXHIBIT INDEX	
6 7		
8	MAR Exhibit	
	Exhibit 5 Data sheet 152	
9	Exhibit 6 Inspection report 166	
10	Exhibit 7 E-mail 169	
11		
12	Exhibit 8 Inspection report 173	
13	Exhibit 9 Violation notice 179	
	Exhibit 10 E-mail 181	
14	Exhibit 11 E-mail 190	
15	Exhibit 12 E-mail 194	
16		
17	Exhibit 13 E-mail 198	
18	Exhibit 14 E-mail 206	
	Exhibit 15 (SKIPPED EXHIBIT NUMBER) 216	
19	Exhibit 16 E-mail 216	
20	Exhibit 17 Spreadsheet 230	
21		
22	Exhibit 18 Duplicate of Exhibit 17 234	
23	Exhibit 19 Report 234	
23 24		

Page 140 1 MIA SAVALOJA, 2. having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows: 3 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. EDWARDS: 5 All right. We are back. I wanted to 6 Ο. 7 follow up with you about the week 53 fiscal 8 year 2022 store wide pricing audit. You told 9 me this would have been -- this would have 10 actually occurred in the first calendar week 11 of 2023, correct? 12 MR. TAYLOR: Objection, misstates the 13 prior testimony I think but you can answer. 14 It did occur -- let me confirm that 15 it did occur in fiscal week 53. Which 16 would -- which would for us -- and I don't have a fiscal calendar in front of me, but 17 18 would have been the last week in January. 19 BY MR. EDWARDS: 20 Would have been the last week in Ο. 2.1 January? 22 The last fiscal week would have Α. been -- in the last week in January. 2.3 Okay. So like -- okay, I understand. 2.4 Ο.

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Page 141 And every store participated in this audit? 1 2 Α. Every store participated. 3 O. And every item was checked on the shelf? 4 5 Every -- we chose -- we wanted the stores to do every item possible but at the 6 7 same time we chose all of the large categories as these are the must do. As part of your all 8 9 store scan, insure these. And then it was a 10 list of very large categories. 11 Okay. And do you have any idea of Ο. 12 how many products would have been included on the big list of categories? 13 14 Gosh. You know, at the time that we 15 were putting it together we did -- we did look at it, and I just -- I don't recall the 16 17 number. 18 Did it include all core products? O. 19 It did, yes. Α. 20 Okay. So you're talking about Ο. 21 potentially thousands of products? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Okay. And you told me earlier in Ο. 24 terms of results, store-by-store results, that

Page 142 there would be -- there would be a record of 1 2 label changes following that big audit at the 3 beginning of 2023, correct? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 5 can answer. There -- as part of that activity --6 Α. 7 if I were performing that activity I scanned a price, the price wasn't correct, then I 8 9 would -- I would have to print the label. 10 There are two ways that stores can print 11 They can print an entire plan-o-gram. 12 And stores may have chosen I'm going to first 13 start off by working the coolers and the 14 freezers. And you know what, I'm just going 15 to print the plan-o-gram and print all of the labels and do it that way. 16 BY MR. EDWARDS: 17 18 I'm wondering though, other than Ο. 19 counting up the number of labels printed, if 20 there was anything else recorded data wise? 21 For example, you know, there was 75 percent 22 accuracy when we did our audit or any sort of 23 list of products that were -- that were 24 mispriced?

Page 143 1 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 2 can answer. 3 Α. As part of my role as a, you know, store ops communications senior director, I 4 5 don't have knowledge. That is not to say it wasn't done. I don't know. 6 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: So sitting here today, you're not 8 9 able to point to any sort of document or 10 compilation of data at all which would verify 11 the results of any of those audits that took 12 place fiscal year 53 of 2022? 13 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 14 can answer? 15 Sitting here today, I've stated data 16 was pulled to review the number of labels that 17 they printed. That data -- that data was 18 pulled and created as a report. So there was -- I'm aware of that effort. Were there 19 20 efforts after that, it's just not -- it's not 21 part of my role. 22 BY MR. EDWARDS: 23 Okay. So you're telling me there Ο. 24 is -- there is a report, as you called it,

which sets forth how many labels were printed by each store as a result of this week 53 audit?

- A. There was a report. I can't speak to the specifics this is exactly what the report had, but it was basically a participation report in terms of the number of labels they printed.
- Q. Okay. And what was -- would you call this report anything specific if you wanted -- if you wanted to ask for it, what would you call it?
- A. I really -- I really don't -- I don't recall and you know -- I would think that after an event like this, we would call it with the name of the event. And, you know, that's typically what -- you know, as a part of the process when there is a process from end to end, but the report at the end would have included the name of the event in it.
- Q. Okay. So after this big audit event takes place that we've been discussing, this store wide event in January of 2023, is it after that, that these measures were put into

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Page 145 These 4 measures that we talked about 1 2 to address the overcharging issues we've been 3 discussing? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 5 can answer? 6 Those -- those measures were put in Α. 7 place at various times. And so, for 8 example -- and I don't have exact recall of 9 the exact dates of every single one, but, you 10 know, some of them -- so, for example, the 11 compliance Tuesday. It started in fiscal week -- I believe it was fiscal week 52 that 12 13 it started as, you know, a permanent go 14 forward program. 15 BY MR. EDWARDS: 16 Q. That would also be in January of 17 2023? 18 Α. It would. 19 Q. Okay. 20 It would. The forced print label Α. 21 program, I can share with you that that 22 program started sometime in January. Because as we were experiencing -- and December really 23 24 capped it off in terms of the number of price

Page 146 increases -- as we were experiencing this we 1 2 would continually work to solve, you know, 3 really sustainable solutions. And so, for example, the force print one took IT work. 4 5 And so that one, I believe, was -- it was live sometime in late January as well. 6 7 Ο. of 2023? Α. Of -- of 2022. 8 9 Ο. January of 2022? The force -- the force print label 10 Α. 11 was developed as part of the permanent sustainable solutions. And -- and so we've 12 13 been doing that force print since early --14 early in the year. It may have been as late 15 as March that that launched. 16 Of 2022? Q. 17 Of 2022. I'm sorry, 2023. Sorry, Α. 18 sorry, sorry. 19 Okay. It sounds like everything 20 we're talking about at this point was in early 21 2023? 22 That's right. Α. 23 O. Okay. 24 And it really started at the end of Α.

Page 147 1 the year. I'm thinking '22 only because 2 January is '22 to us as part of our fiscal 3 year. Got it. So with those four action 4 Ο. 5 items implemented to address overcharging, what have you seen at Dollar General which 6 7 would allow the company to assess the 8 effectiveness of these four action items in 9 terms of addressing overcharges? 10 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 11 may answer. I was -- I mean, short answer is: 12 Α. 13 That's not in my area. I had compliance for a 14 short time at the beginning of the year after 15 having had it for a while. And so while I had 16 heard anecdotally that there has been 17 improvement, I'm not part of the group that 18 would be reporting out on that or be receiving 19 it, because it's compliance related. 20 BY MR. EDWARDS: 21 So you lost -- to go back for a 22 second to confirm, you lost compliance as part 23 of your job responsibilities in May of 2023? 2.4 Α. End of April, yeah. It was May 1st

Page 148 1 that the change was made. 2 Okay. So you're not privy to any 3 sort of data showing whether these action -four action items you laid out have been 4 5 effective in addressing overcharges? 6 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 7 can answer. I am not -- I am not privy. 8 9 BY MR. EDWARDS: Who's the best individual or 10 11 individuals which would have -- have the 12 answers to, you know, being able to assess how effective these measures have been? 13 14 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 15 can answer. 16 Α. You know, I -- there is a -- there is 17 a decision science, slash, business analytics 18 team that supports store operations and I 19 would imagine it would be that team, if I had 20 to say. 21 BY MR. EDWARDS: 22 Can you give me a name of a person? Ο. 23 Α. That is -- the person that supports 24 store operations, his name is Daniel Blaich,

Page 149 1 B-L-A-I-C-H. 2 Ο. Okay. 3 Α. But there are also a number of analytical resources within store ops, but 4 5 Daniel would be the support person from the business analytics team. 6 7 Okay. So sitting here today you Ο. don't know how effective any of these four 8 9 action measures have been? MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. 10 11 Objection; asked and answered. You can answer 12 again. 13 No, sir, I don't. It would only be Α. 14 anecdotal, you know, water cooler hallway 15 conversation. 16 BY MR. EDWARDS: 17 Q. Okay. Have you seen charts or graphs 18 or data in any sort of format which lays out 19 the percentage of stores by states, for 20 example, which have failed government audits 21 and been fined? I have, in my prior role, seen that, 22 23 yes. 24 Q. We're still on Exhibit 4 I think. If

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Page 150 you would flip forward a few pages to the 1 2 document that ends in 2043 and I'll ask you 3 about that? 4 Α. Okay. 5 Ο. Just let me know when you're there? 6 Okay. I have it up. Α. 7 Okay. It's a map of the US and it's Ο. labeled year-to-date pricing violation with 8 9 fines. Do you see that? I do see that. 10 Α. And is it has a list of states 11 Ο. starting with Utah down through Florida? 12 13 Α. I do. 14 Do you see that? Ο. 15 Α. It's a bit grainy, but I do see it. 16 Okay. Is -- is that -- first of all, Q. 17 do you know who prepares this document? 18 Α. I do not know who prepared that 19 document. 20 Okay. Do you know who aggregates the Ο. 21 data generally? Like what department would be 22 responsible for aggregating this data? 23 It would either be store operations 24 or it would be the business analytics team

Page 151 that I mentioned earlier. 1 2 Well, if it was store operations that 0. 3 would be you, right? 4 I'm store operations communications. 5 I don't have a data arm in my group. All right. You see there that for 6 7 New York, the third one down the store count 8 is 569? 9 Α. Okay. 10 Ο. Does that sound about right? Do you 11 think that's still accurate? 12 Α. I don't have any way of knowing if that number is accurate. 13 14 All right. And then 11.78 percent of stores year-to-date at the time of this 15 16 document had pricing violations with fines. 17 Is that how you read the document? 18 Yes, according to headers that would 19 be how I would interpret the document. 20 Ο. Okay. 21 MR. EDWARDS: Go ahead and mark the next exhibit, which I think will be Exhibit 5. 22 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 23 24 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS EXHIBIT NO. 5 TO THE

Page 152 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 1 2 HERETO.) 3 BY MR. EDWARDS: Just let me know when this pulls up? 4 0. 5 Will do. Turning wheel at the moment. Okay, it's up. 6 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: I'm not asking you necessarily yet 8 9 about this document specifically, but I'm wondering if you're familiar with documents 10 11 like this from weights and measures in New 12 York? Have you seen documents like this 13 before where the county is reporting the 14 results of inspections? 15 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 16 can answer. 17 From my time in store compliance, Α. 18 yes, I have seen those types of documents. 19 BY MR. EDWARDS: 20 Okay. Would the store manager, back Ο. 21 when you were working in compliance, generally 22 forward these type of documents to you or 23 would you be copied on these types of 2.4 documents?

A. There are a couple of different ways that -- the SOP for four stores is to utilize scan and send, which is a function of their printer. And send it to -- there is a list of addresses that you can scan and send to and it would scan and send to legal. And the legal department would basically, you know, intake it, process it and communicate it to parties. When I was in the role in compliance I would be on the CC line of those types of -- let's call them violations. I would be on the CC line for those.

- Q. Okay. That would explain why you've seen documents like this before, correct?
 - A. That's right, yes.
- Q. Did you review Exhibit 5 in preparation for your deposition?
- A. Let me just go back and look at it a little bit closer. So specifically, on something like this, I would have been copied. I didn't specifically review all of this documentation.
- Q. Okay. Go down to -- it appears that a penalty of \$17,550 was assessed. Do you see

Page 154 1 that? I see that. 2 Α. 3 Q. Okay. Do you know if Dollar General just pays these fines or are they challenged? 4 5 Do you know? 6 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 7 can answer. I can answer based on my time, you 8 9 know, in the compliance role that the fines would come into legal. Legal would distribute 10 11 them out to the field team and I would be 12 copied on that. And then legal would -- legal 13 would process the fine. You know, process by 14 check or whatever method of payment. And 15 because this is a -- this is a fine two store operations, as a senior director I would sign 16 17 off on the payment request. BY MR. EDWARDS: 18 19 I see. So here there were 100 random 20 items that were selected and checked by the 21 weight and measures inspector. Does that look 22 right? 23 Α. I see that. 2.4 For an inspection that took place on Q.

Page 155 November 17th, 2022, at the store located at 1 2 4375 Main Street in Port Henry, New York. Do 3 you see that? 4 Α. I see that. 5 Okay. One inspector found there were Ο. 78 overcharges out of a hundred random items 6 7 checked. Do you see that? Α. I do see that. 8 9 Ο. Okay. Would you consider that to be 10 abnormally high? 11 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. 12 can answer. 13 I don't know that I have context Α. 14 to -- to that. And, you know, certainly as I 15 would look at a number like that, you know, 16 the field team clearly has some remediation to 17 do. 18 BY MR. EDWARDS: 19 But sitting here today, during your 20 role in compliance is that a number that you 21 would when you were sitting in compliance if 22 you received 78 or let's call it a 22 percent 23 accuracy rate, would that be a number that you 24 would consider to be outside the range of

Page 156 1 normal? 2 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 3 can answer. Looking at that number in my prior 4 Α. 5 role and having that visibility, it would look like a number that was larger than average, 6 7 yes. BY MR. EDWARDS: 8 9 Ο. Well, during your time in compliance, 10 did you get a general sense of what a -- what 11 the accuracy rate was within -- within your 12 stores? 13 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 14 can answer. 15 I didn't. Because my department -my department was not responsible for tracking 16 17 them all. These were scanned and sent to 18 legal, and so the field team is responsible 19 for the remediation. Legal is responsible for 20 the administration of the fine and I provide s 21 signature approval and, you know, so that 22 was -- that was my role. I wasn't tracking 23 I wasn't trend lining them in my role. 24 BY MR. EDWARDS:

- Q. Understood. Is there any accuracy rate, less than 100 percent, which is acceptable to Dollar General for its policies?

 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.
- A. We always want to be a hundred percent accurate at the shelf.
- 8 BY MR. EDWARDS:

2.4

- Q. Okay.
- A. It's not -- for various reasons it may not always be possible to be at a hundred percent, but that is absolutely the goal and policy.
- Q. Let's go over to the next page and just look at one example. Here we see all 100 products that were sampled. It has the location, the shelf price, the charge price and the error instance; do you see that?
 - A. I do.
- Q. I'm aware that Dollar General does internal audits like the one that you spoke about earlier and there is also regular audits that take place at least now in 2023, correct?

 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You

can answer.

2.4

A. At this point in time there is a regular audit. And during -- prior to this time -- the time frame also included in what we're looking at -- when you say, internal, you know, do you mean an internal audit group or an internal group of Dollar General employees?

BY MR. EDWARDS:

- Q. I mean some sort of pricing accuracy audit like this one that I've shown you, but conducted within -- at the behest of Dollar General as opposed to outside governmental entity?
- A. Yeah. District managers are responsible for conducting an audit, which includes the check of 50 items for pricing accuracy, every 45 days as part of our -- what we call quality store visit, QSV, and then once every 90 days as part of the store compliance visit which we refer to as the SCV.
- Q. Okay. And did this start at the beginning of 2023, the requirements for these two audits?

- A. No, sir. Both audits had been in place for quite some time. The store compliance visit had -- had included a price check for a longer period of time. And then as another, you know, I would call it safeguard, it was added to the quality store visit as well.
- Q. Okay. So back when this inspection took place in November of 2022, those internal audits would have already been in place?
 - A. Yes, they would have.

- Q. Okay. And have you ever seen internal audit data from Dollar General which looks anything like this where it breaks out the products sampled and provides the amount of the overcharge?
- MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.
- A. I'm not sure I understand.

 Typically -- typically where I would see these things is in what we're looking at right now.

 And so Dollar General data and capturing
- violations resides in legal and so it wasn't something that my team owned.

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BY MR. EDWARDS:

Q. Okay. So you've never seen results from any of these internal audits, these 50 item internal audits that you just spoke of which breaks down which products were -- were mispriced?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.

- A. Thank you for clarifying because I think you're talking about -- when you say internal audits that kind of leads me down a couple of different paths. Are you referring to the district manager audit that we covered where I described the audit of 50 items?

 BY MR. EDWARDS:
- Q. I am, but I'm not -- I don't mean to limit it to that specifically. I'm talking about anything that Dollar General is engaged in internally, outside of government audits, which lays out, okay, out of these 50 items, these are the 18 that were mispriced and by this amount, like these governmental audits do. Have you ever seen anything like that?

A. What I have seen is the internal

1 audit as part of the store compliance visit or 2 the quality store visit and the data there is 3 that they met the threshold or they didn't meet the threshold. And effective in 4 5 February, there was an accountability program tied to not meeting the threshold. So 6 7 internally -- and I think the question that you're getting at is: Did district managers 8 9 type a whole bunch of data into the visit 10 system and the answer is, no. They either 11 were a pass or a fail, based on their audit. 12 Q. Okay. And when you say, 13 accountability, I'm curious. So, for example, 14 let's take a store manager, the store manager 15 is overseeing these -- these regular audits 16 for pricing accuracy? They are, this is the district 17 Α. 18 manager. So the frequency and the -- let's 19 just talk about it in terms of frequency. In

Q. Okay. And if -- if the -- also is

the last -- in this last year is every 45 days

for quality store visit, every 90 days for

manager is auditing the store.

store compliance visit. And so the district

20

21

22

23

24

Page 162 the district manager actually going in and 1 2 checking the prices his or herself? 3 Α. As part of their visit they are doing They are doing compliance checks, yes. 4 Got you. And, for example, you 5 mentioned accountability earlier. If the 6 7 district manager is consistently getting fails on these audits, that could result in 8 9 termination of their job, I presume, right? MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 10 11 can answer. It could result in termination of the 12 Α. 13 store manager and/or it could result in 14 termination of the district manager. 15 BY MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Is someone in the store with 16 Q. 17 the district manager making sure that the 18 process is being done accurately and correctly 19 in terms of those QSV and SCV audits? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 21 can answer. 22 The supervisor of the district Α. 23 manager is the regional director. 2.4 BY MR. EDWARDS:

Q. Okay.

2.4

- A. So the regional director has, you know, a complement of districts that they are going to travel on, you know, a rotational -- not a formal rotation but a rotational basis with their district managers. And so as part of a regional director visit -- say I'm a regional director, I'm traveling with my district manager, that would be where a regional director would be observing that behavior.
- Q. Okay. I mean, how many of the -what percentage of the visits to stores by the
 regional manager are supervised by the
 district manager?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form.

- A. Can you rephrase that? What percent?

 BY MR. EDWARDS:
 - Q. Yeah. I'm trying to figure out like, okay, if the -- if the regional manager does 10 of these QSV visits, how many of them -- on how many of those would typically the regional manager be accompanying that person?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form,

Page 164 1 misstates prior testimony. You can answer. 2 I don't have -- I don't keep -- in my 3 role, I don't keep records of the RD visits. I don't know the RD visits. They are 4 5 certainly -- they certainly need to be 6 traveling on a regular basis with their --7 however many DMs they have, you know, rotationally. So I wouldn't -- that just 8 9 wouldn't be part of my role to know those 10 numbers. 11 BY MR. EDWARDS: 12 Q. Okay. So let's look on the second 13 page of Exhibit 5 which is -- ends in Bates 14 5450. Are you there with me? 15 Α. I am. 16 Okay. Go about midway down and look Ο. 17 at, for example, the One-A-Day hundred count 18 men's vitamins. Do you see that? 19 Give me just a second. We're on 5-0, 20 right? I see them. 21 Q. Yep. 22 Α. Yep. 23 Shelf price a 965 and charge price Ο. 24 was 1065, correct?

Page 165 1 I see that. Α. 2 Ο. Resulting in overcharge of \$1.00? 3 Α. That is what this shows. Okay. So at some point, One-A-Day 4 Ο. 5 multivitamins were 9.65 at the register, I presume, right? 6 7 At some point they were. At some point in time, yes. 8 Okay. And then the most -- the most 9 10 likely thing here is that there was a price increase to 10.65 which made it to the 11 12 register but didn't make it to the shelf; is that fair? 13 14 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 15 can answer? That's what this would -- that's what 16 Α. 17 this would show, yes. BY MR. EDWARDS: 18 19 Okay. Let's go to the next exhibit 20 which is -- well, shoot, hold on. Exhibit 6. 21 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 22 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS EXHIBIT NO. 6 TO THE 23 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 24 HERETO.)

Page 166 1 BY MR. EDWARDS: 2 Ο. Which I just introduced and tell me 3 when you see it? Okay. Looks like the wheel is 4 Α. 5 turning. Is this a particularly large file? It's not coming through. 6 7 I delayed a bit because I forgot to Ο. put the stamp on it. 8 9 Α. Okay. All right. While you are waiting for that to 10 Ο. 11 come up, the manager at this 4375 Main Street 12 Port Henry store that had the 22 percent 13 accuracy rate on November 17th of 2022, that 14 person's name was Cynthia Arno, A-R-N-O. Do 15 you know if she is still an employee of Dollar 16 General? 17 I don't. That's outside my area of Α. 18 responsibility. 19 Ο. Okay. 20 At least I see 6 now. The wheel is Α. 21 turning so it is in process. 22 Have you heard the name Cynthia Arno Ο. before today? 23 2.4 Α. No, I haven't.

Page 167 1 Okay? Q. 2 Α. Exhibit 6 is up. 3 Q. All right. I'll represent to you 4 that this is another weight and measures failed inspection report from a different 5 store, this time at 925 US Route 9 in Schroon 6 7 Lake, New York. Do you see that? 8 Α. I do. 9 O. And this is an inspection that took 10 place on December 8th of 2022. Do you see 11 that? 12 Α. I do. 13 And this one the accuracy rate was 14 better, it was 68 percent so 3 overcharges out 15 of hundred random items checked. Do you see 16 that? 17 Α. I do. 18 Is 68 percent accuracy rate 0. 19 acceptable for Dollar General? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 21 can answer. 22 68 percent is -- is -- this -we've -- we've failed here. This is not --23 2.4 this has not met the standard.

Page 168 1 BY MR. EDWARDS: 2 Ο. The manager at that store is Bonnie 3 Bessy. Do you know Bonnie? I don't know Bonnie. 4 Α. So you have no idea if she's still 5 Ο. 6 employed at Dollar General? 7 I don't. That is something the HR Α. team would potentially know. 8 9 Ο. Okay? MR. TAYLOR: Go ahead and mark the 10 11 next exhibit, which will be Exhibit 7. 12 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 13 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS EXHIBIT NO. 7 TO THE 14 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 15 HERETO.) 16 Α. It looks like it's on its way. Okay, 17 I've got it. 18 BY MR. EDWARDS: 19 I actually believe that the first 20 page of this exhibit --21 MR. TAYLOR: Adam, one thing that 22 might be helpful is there are some dates on certain e-mails that we have noticed are 23 incorrect and we're trying to figure out why. 24

Page 169 But like do you see on this one it says, 6-14 1 2 of 2023? 3 MR. EDWARDS: I've noticed that, too, and I was actually going to ask her about 4 5 that. 6 MR. TAYLOR: And feel free to ask, 7 but what I can tell you -- this may make 8 things a little easier is it's a system thing. 9 We're trying to figure out where it occurred. 10 And I actually have examples of some of the 11 e-mails that said -- that, you know, it says 12 6-14 but I have the -- you know, the exact 13 e-mail where it's a couple of months earlier. 14 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, I kind of thought 15 it wouldn't take that many months to get a response to all the different e-mails. There 16 17 is a lot of documents produced where the last 18 e-mail in the thread is 6-14-23 and that is, 19 in many cases, many months after the e-mail 20 that preceded it. So I kind of figured there 21 was something like that going on. 22 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. We'll get to that 23 we'll get an answer or get that fixed or whatever and we can talk off the record about 24

Page 170 1 sort of what that is once we get the answer? 2 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, we would 3 appreciate that because, you know, I'd really like to know when the dates of these things 4 5 actually are. 6 MR. TAYLOR: Yeah. 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: So it looks like here you received an 8 9 e-mail from Stacey McCue on March 30th, 2023, which -- the subject of which is overdue fines 10 11 in Essex County, New York. Do you see that? I do see it in the from, sent to and 12 Α. 13 CC information, yes. 14 Okay. Who is Stacey McCue? 15 Stacey McCue, at the time of this, was an administrator of capturing violations 16 17 and the database system. 18 Okay. Administrator capturing 19 violations in the database system. What does 20 that mean? 21 It means that, you know, we talked a 22 little bit earlier about that process of a store scans it or an e-mail comes in, then 23 24 Stacey, at the time, was responsible for

insuring they were systemically captured in a system specifically for that purpose.

2.3

2.4

- Q. Yeah. I see down below that there is an e-mail from a James Hooper to Inspections@DollarGeneral.com. Is the Inspections at Dollar General a specific
- 8 inspection results are to be sent or something
 9 like that?

e-mail address where all inspection --

- A. They would have entered this an inspection and I think as -- I'm sure you've probably experienced before when there are a number of e-mail boxes that you have choice from, sometimes you don't follow the directions and send them where you're supposed to. You think, oh, this sound like a good one, I'll send it here. So instead of forwarding that on to legal, James -- it appears from what I'm looking at -- sent it to the inspections e-mail address, which was just fine because the inspections team picked it up and routed to the correct place.
- Q. Okay. And this e-mail relates to an inspection completed on January 24th, 2023, in

Page 172 1 Port Henry, New York, correct? 2 Yes, that is what this e-mail from 3 Daniel Woods to James Hooper shows. 4 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. And let's go 5 ahead and make -- mark the next exhibit here, 6 which I believe will be Exhibit 8. 7 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS EXHIBIT NO. 8 TO THE 8 9 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 10 HERETO.) 11 Α. It's on its way. Okay, I see it. 12 BY MR. EDWARDS: 13 All right. And you'll notice here in 14 Exhibit 8, this is an inspection report from the last week of January -- January 24th, 15 16 2023. Do you see that? 17 I see that. Α. 18 And this involves that same store Ο. 19 that generated the inspection report that 20 we've made Exhibit 5, where there were 78 21 overcharges out of a hundred at 4375 Main 22 Street, Port Henry, New York. Do you see 23 that? I do see that. 24 A.

Page 173 So that inspection that we marked 1 2 Exhibit 5 was November 17th, 2022 -- to refresh your recollection -- and now we've 3 gone forward all the way to January 24th, 4 2023. Do you see that? 5 6 Α. I do. 7 Over -- over 2 months later, right? Well, wasn't the -- let me go back 8 Α. 9 and look at the first one? The first one, I think, was 10 Ο. Yeah. 11 November 17th, 2022, that is Exhibit 5. Yeah. Let me look at Exhibit 5 12 Α. 13 again. So we've got November 17th of 2022 and 14 then January 24th of 2023. MR. TAYLOR: Adam, just for the 15 16 record, I want to note that that November 17 17th, that is when the inspection occurred. 18 The date on the letter to Dollar General was 19 not until January 18th of 2023. 20 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. You noted that 21 last time. Thanks? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Yep. And I'll note that 23 you did not note that at this time. So I just

want to make sure we're being accurate on

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Page 174 this. 1 2 MR. EDWARDS: You know, that's really 3 irrelevant to my questions that I'm asking, Trent. 4 5 MR. TAYLOR: I just --6 MR. EDWARDS: You haven't heard my 7 question yet. If you want to do your speaking 8 objection at least wait until I get into the 9 content. MR. TAYLOR: Well, Adam, you -- I 10 11 disagree with that. I mean, you asked about when the inspection occurred and it was 2 12 13 months later but --14 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, I'm about to ask 15 her about the changes that took place during 16 the two months between November 17th 17 inspection and the January 24th, 2023 18 inspection. I will give you that the 19 inspector didn't send out the notice of the 20 November 17th, 2022 inspection until January 21 2023. 22 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. 23 MR. EDWARDS: That's -- it says so 24 right on the documents. I don't disagree.

Page 175 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. 1 2 BY MR. EDWARDS: 3 Q. So, ma'am, I think my question was: The two inspections, the one that we marked as 4 5 Exhibit 5 and now the one that we're looking at which is Exhibit A. The first inspection 6 7 occurred on November 17th, 2022. The second occurred on January 24th, 2023, over 2 months 8 9 later. Do you agree? 10 Α. I agree. That's what is in the 11 document, yes. 12 Q. Okay. And by January 24th, 2023, 13 that would have been around the time or 14 shortly after this big audit took place that 15 we discussed earlier, right? 16 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. 17 Objection, misstates prior testimony. You can 18 answer. 19 It would have -- it would have been 20 before -- probably about a week before the 21 full store scan audit. 22 BY MR. EDWARDS: 23 I thought you told me that the full 24 store scan audit was the last week of January

Page 176 1 2023? 2 It was our fiscal week 53, which 3 would have been the last full week. So on the -- I don't have a fiscal calendar in front 4 of me to know was that the 24th. It was 5 certainly near that time. 6 7 Right. Okay. Do you know if when Ο. these inspectors come in and do their -- to do 8 9 their inspections, they immediately advise the 10 store or the store managers as -- as to how 11 many -- you know, what the results were? 12 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 13 can answer. 14 The way that I would answer that is 15 anecdotally, yes. I do hear a variety of, you 16 know, this person came in and did this and I 17 didn't know until the end. Or this person 18 didn't leave a copy, you know, that -- that 19 type of thing. But by and large in my 20 experience, the inspector has left a copy and 21 the store manager or key carrier in charge 22 should scan and send that. 23 BY MR. EDWARDS:

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So let's -- based on the inspection

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Q.

Page 177 which took place here in Exhibit 8, January 1 2 24th, 2023, the accuracy rate was still pretty 3 low at 37 percent. Would you agree? 4 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 5 can answer. The accuracy rate was low. 6 Α. 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: Okay. That is 63 overcharges out of 8 Ο. 9 100 random items checked, correct? Is that 10 correct? 11 Α. That's correct. 12 Q. Okay. And if you flip over to the 13 first page of the report which sets forth the 14 items checked -- that is Bates 5438 -- towards 15 the bottom one fourth of the list, you'll see 16 One-A-Day men's vitamins a isle 21. Price 17 9.65 as the shelf price and then the charge 18 price 1065. Do you see that? 19 Α. T do. 20 Do you recall that that's the same Ο. 21 product that was being overcharged by a dollar 22 as demonstrated in the failed audit nearly 2 months earlier -- or over 2 months earlier and 23 2.4 marked as Exhibit 5?

Page 178 1 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 2 can answer. 3 Α. Yes, I do see that it appears to be the same -- the same item, the same aisle, the 4 5 same price discrepancy. 6 MR. EDWARDS: Let's take our next 7 break. Let's take 5 minutes. Is that good with you quys? 8 9 MR. TAYLOR: Yep. 10 (WHEREUPON, A BRIEF RECESS WAS TAKEN 11 AND THE PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:) 12 MR. EDWARDS: Good news. I've 13 already marked the next exhibit, so no more 14 waiting for that spinning thing. 15 A. All right. Exhibit 9; is that 16 correct? 17 BY MR. EDWARDS: 18 Q. Yes, ma'am. 19 Α. Okay. 20 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 21 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 9 TO THE 22 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 23 HERETO.) 24 BY MR. EDWARDS:

- Q. This will be a quick one. This one is an older notice from February of 2020 and it comes from the Suffolk County Department of Labor Licensing and Consumer Affairs. Do you see that?
- A. I do.

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- Q. And it's addressed directly to you providing a notice of a violation and a date for an administrative hearing. Do you see that?
- 11 A. I do.
- Q. Have you ever actually appeared for one of these administrative hearings?
 - A. I have not.
 - Q. Okay. Do you ever remember getting letters like this?
 - A. I -- I remember getting -- I have gotten letters similar to this and, you know, or something -- let's just put it this way, that doesn't apply to me and, you know, or isn't a part of my role. And so my process is to insure that I forward them to legal and then confirm verbally with legal that they receive it.

- Q. Got you. Okay. Thank you. Who is Caleb Lumby?
- A. Caleb Lumby is a senior manager that at one time reported to me. He was -- he was not part of the compliance team, but he did -- he did report to me.
- MR. EDWARDS: Let's go ahead and mark Exhibit 10 which I'm going to add a stamp to and introduce.
- 10 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED

 11 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 10 TO THE

 12 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED
- 14 BY MR. EDWARDS:

HERETO.)

- Q. It's a bigger document, so just let me know when you see it, please?
 - A. It's not quite there. It's not processing yet. Not coming up in the queue yet so it must be a big one. Typically what they've been doing, I can see the exhibit number in the queue but then it takes a minute for the content to be visible. Yeah, it's not -- it's not.

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MR. EDWARDS: I'll try it again.

Page 181 1 THE WITNESS: Okay. 2 MR. TAYLOR: I was able to open it. 3 THE WITNESS: Were you? Okay. I don't know why it's not coming in then. I'm 4 refreshing and --5 6 MR. EDWARDS: Somebody get me a 7 better laptop. This is ridiculous. 8 THE WITNESS: Well, I think that's 9 going to be an outcome of this little meeting 10 we're having here. 11 (WHEREUPON, A BRIEF RECESS WAS TAKEN AND THE PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:) 12 13 THE WITNESS: Okay, I've got it. 14 BY MR. EDWARDS: 15 Ο. Okay. Good. 16 Α. I just think it was chugging along. 17 Okay, I see the e-mail message from Caleb. 18 Okay. So this appears to be a 19 compliance Tuesday workload forecast. Do you 20 see that? 21 Α. I do. 22 All right. And I would like for you to help me understand what this document is? 23 24 It's actually a number of compliance workloads

Page 182 forecasts, it appears, for a number of 1 2 different dates in the -- generally in the 3 summer of 2023? 4 Α. Okay. 5 And you're copied on this -- on this list along with a number of other people. 6 7 this a document that you're familiar with? Α. It is an e-mail that I'm familiar 8 9 with, yes. Can you tell me what this chart 10 Ο. 11 The core SKUs by pricing with the description row labels and SKUs -- oh, this 12 13 helps. Why is this document generated? 14 The reason the document is 15 generated, there is a -- there is a couple of reasons. Caleb's role is to -- he is the sort 16 17 of radar person, if you will, to see what is 18 on the radar screen for workload. And that is 19 in our effort as a store operations team, to 20 do our level best to manage the workload to 21 insure that it's smooth and, you know, 22 balanced across -- across weeks. If it is not 23 smooth, it's -- it's important that we know 24 this information that Caleb is providing

Page 183 because if we see a blip on that radar, 1 2 something -- some outlier that pops up that 3 we're going to have a whole bunch of extra work and we can get to work on how we're 4 5 supporting it. So what you're looking at in this e-mail from Caleb is a recap of the 6 7 pricing activity that is going to stores on Tuesday. And this is a forecast based on what 8 9 has been put in the system at this moment in 10 time -- so, you know, on 7-31 at 1 o'clock. 11 So do I understand you correctly that you 12 would like for me to walk you through the 13 bullet points and what they mean? 14 Well, let's back up -- maybe. But 15 for right now so this is a -- this is a forecast for a Tuesday -- the first one here, 16 17 the subject is 8-1 compliance, Tuesday workload forecast, correct? 18 19 That's correct. Α. 20 And so this is sent out to the group Ο. 21 the day before on July 31st, 2023. So at this point have the price changes actually hit the 22 23 store? 24 They have not. Caleb is reporting Α.

Page 184 these prior to them hitting the store. 1 2 Ο. Okay. 3 Α. Which 7-31, I imagine, would have been a Monday. 4 Okay. Yeah, makes sense if 8-1 is a 5 6 compliance Tuesday? 7 Α. Yes. The price changes reflected here will 8 9 hit the store first thing Tuesday morning and 10 then we'll go through that process that you've 11 already described on super Tuesday where the prices are made -- the price changes are 12 13 reflected on the shelves, in theory, correct? 14 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 15 can answer. 16 So what we see here will be effective Α. 17 tomorrow, Tuesday, for the stores to execute 18 as part of compliance Tuesday. 19 BY MR. EDWARDS: 20 Okay. So is this -- is this all Ο. 21 stores in the United States? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 23 can answer, 24 Α. Okay. It really is a compilation of

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Page 185 1 what stores are going to see. So when you 2 look at 49 SKUs from weekly core labels, 11 3 pod resets in medicine; yes, those are for the When you see the zone verbiage, Caleb 4 chain. has a parenthetical there of the number of 5 stores that that is going to affect. 6 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: I see. 8 Ο. 9 Α. So it is chain unless it's noted otherwise. 10 11 So the 49 SK -- looking at the first Ο. 12 bullet point says, chain, correct? 13 He's got chain as a header, then he Α. 14 has the 2 bullet points below that, that are 15 And then he goes into more specifics 16 with green NCI olive and olive by listing the 17 number of stores, which means they are stores 18 specific, they are not chain. 19 Okay. So 49 SKUs from weekly core 20 labels, that change will hit all -- that price 21 change will hit all the stores in the chain? 22 That's correct. Α. 23 And the same for 11 POG resets, Ο. 2.4 medicine?

Page 186 1 That's correct. Α. 2 Ο. What does POG stand for? 3 A. Plan-o-gram. And then green zone will affect 44 4 Ο. stores only? 5 6 Α. That's correct. 7 Do you guys have an internal map 0. which shows the stores located in the green 8 9 zone? 10 Α. They may not necessarily be mapped. 11 It may be by type of market. Is it a metro 12 market, you know, is it an urban market. It's 13 that kind of language where there is a 14 decision science team that makes those 15 decisions into what type of zones some stores 16 are going to go in. 17 Okay. And then NCI olive zone, that affects 142 stores. That is different than 18 19 the green zone? 20 It is. It's a different color. It's Α. 21 got NCI in front of it, so it is a different 22 zone. What does NCI indicate? What does 23 Ο. 2.4 that stand for?

A. NCI stands for an initiative from 2019. The acronym stands for non-consumables initiative. This was -- this was a -- this was a -- I'll call it a layout change for Dollar General. In which we undertook an initiative to create more of a treasure hunt for our customers with affordable wall decor, candles, blankets. And -- and changed formats in our store as a result of it.

- Q. Okay. So you have a specific zone called NCI olive zone?
- A. We do. These are different pricing zones. So NCI olive means it's an NCI store, part of the olive zone. But then you have an olive zone that is not an NCI, so it's its own zone.
 - Q. Okay.

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- A. And there would be a different assortment in each of those stores.
- Q. So let's go down here to this core SKUs by pricing zone. What does the -- what does like the zone 24 and zone 30 refer to?
- A. It's the only -- the only thing I know about -- about this, he's got the heading

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of row labels, is it's like a sub-heading.

- Q. Which indicates what? Is this an area in the store or is this --
- A. This is a -- so you're -- you know, your zone name would be off to the left here in that column, NCI, NCI gray, yellow, blue, and then they establish a sub-heading. I don't know their nomenclature but it's a sub-heading.
- Q. Okay. And count of SKU that means the number of SKU of products with a price change; is that right?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. And then SPA label breakdown. Does this reflect the actual product with price changes?
 - A. It doesn't. It's a separate category, not one we see too often. SPA is really short for space management. The space management team is the group that oversees plan-o-gram creation, plan-o-gram updates.

 And so this -- you know, this fairly small group of items is something that the SPA team submitted to have labels that week.

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Page 189 Okay. This is document and all these 1 2 e-mails appear to provide information that 3 allows the forecasting of super Tuesday changes but doesn't tell us much about price 4 5 accuracy; is that fair? 6 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. 7 Yes, that's fair. Α. MR. EDWARDS: All right. Let's go to 8 9 what I'll mark as Exhibit 11. (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 10 11 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 11 TO THE 12 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 13 HERETO.) 14 BY MR. EDWARDS: 15 Just tell me when you see it? 16 I got it. It's refreshing right now. Α. 17 It hasn't quite made it over. 18 THE WITNESS: Trent, you want to tell 19 me when you see it? 20 MR. TAYLOR: I have it. 21 (WHEREUPON, A BRIEF RECESS WAS TAKEN 22 AND THE PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:) 23 Α. Okay, it's twirling. There it is, I 24 got it.

Page 190 1 BY MR. EDWARDS: 2 Ο. So this is an e-mail from Jessica 3 Do you know who Jessica Smith is? 4 Jessica Smith is currently a region Α. director in New York. 5 6 Okay. And she's still one of the Q. 7 region directors in New York? 8 Α. Yes, sir. 9 Ο. At the bottom here I see Region 16, Is that still the region she's in 10 Division 1. 11 charge of? 12 She is still assigned to Region 16. 13 Okay. So I'm a little confused O. 14 because I thought -- based on your testimony 15 earlier -- that this software which allows 16 directors or store supervisors to assess 17 whether or not labels are being printed in a 18 timely fashion. I understood that to be one 19 of the processes or action items implemented 20 in that early 2023 time frame to address 21 overcharges. Did I misunderstand that because 22 this Exhibit 11 appears --23 MR. TAYLOR: Object to form. 2.4 BY MR. EDWARDS:

- Q. Sorry. Exhibit 11 appears to be a document which suggests that supervisors had that ability back in 2021?
- 4 MR. TAYLOR: Object to form of the guestion.
- A. They did not. And so old school way, at that point in time, would have been, you
- 8 know, hey, district managers, check on this.
- 9 And so it looks like, you know, somehow she
- 10 knows that stores haven't printed the labels.
- 11 | But that particular -- that particular
- 12 technology was not a -- when I look at the end
- of December was, to my knowledge, not
- 14 available at that time. So I don't -- I
- 15 honestly don't know how Jessica may have
- 16 known.

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- 17 BY MR. EDWARDS:
- Q. If you flip over to the next page, the one ending in Bates 39005?
- 20 A. Uh-huh (affirmative response).
- 21 Q. It looks like this e-mail originated
- 22 from Monica Sullivan?
- 23 | A. Monica --
- Q. Sorry. Go ahead.

Page 192 1 Sorry. Go ahead. Α. 2 Ο. It lists her as the store operations 3 senior analyst at the time? Α. 4 I see. Is she still in that role? 5 Ο. She is in a different role now. And 6 Α. 7 the -- the team must have had a different way 8 that they were capturing this for New York. 9 I'm not familiar with what it was. But based on what I see from Monica, they must have been 10 11 capturing it a different way. Maybe through 12 IT and not the current methodology that we're 13 using. 14 Okay. Yeah. It looks like Monica 15 was able to -- at least within New York 16 Division 1, figure out which regions -- or 17 figure out the number of stores -- store 18 labels not printed in various regions within 19 Division 1. Do you agree? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 21 can answer. 22 That's what this shows. Α. BY MR. EDWARDS: 23 2.4 Q. Okay. And it shows that 98 New York

Page 193 1 stores did not print core labels on Tuesday, 2 correct? 3 Α. That is what is in Monica's e-mail, 4 yes. 5 O. Okay. So even before compliance 6 Tuesday, the labels were to be printed on 7 Tuesdays I take from this. Is that right? Since the beginning of my time at 8 Α. 9 Dollar General they have always been on 10 Tuesdays, yes. 11 Q. Okay. So compliance Tuesday, that program refers to the extra 4 hours of shift 12 dedicated? 13 14 Yes, correct. 15 MR. EDWARDS: I'll mark the next 16 Exhibit and that is Exhibit 12. 17 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 12 TO THE 18 19 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 20 HERETO.) 21 BY MR. EDWARDS: 22 Same deal, just let me know when you 0. see it. 23 24 THE WITNESS: Trent, let me know when

Page 194 1 you see it. BY MR. EDWARDS: 2 3 Q. While you're waiting for that to the refresh, the fact that 98 New York stores in 4 5 Division 1 had not timely printed out core labels that is unacceptable to Dollar General 6 7 I imagine, correct? 8 MR. TAYLOR: Objection -- objection 9 form. Objection, I don't think it's 98 stores in one particular division. I don't think 10 11 that is what it says, Adam. 12 MR. EDWARDS: Okay. I mean, the chart says Division 1, Region 10, number of 13 14 stores not printed. And it says Division 1, 15 Region 15, et cetera, et cetera. Am I reading 16 that wrong? Does this not relate to Division 17 1, Region 16? 18 MR. TAYLOR: Oh, you said division. 19 I'm sorry. Okay. Okay. 20 THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's division. 21 Yeah. 22 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. I got region and 23 division mixed up. Sorry. Go ahead? 24 THE WITNESS: Yep. And that is

Page 195 probably at the time would have -- would not 1 2 have had a thousand or more stores. So, yes. 3 Okay. It's up. BY MR. EDWARDS: 4 5 All right. Let me just repeat my Ο. 6 question. 7 The fact that 98 stores in New York in Division 1 had not printed their Tuesday 8 9 label changes in a timely fashion back in December of 2021, that wouldn't have been 10 11 acceptable to Dollar General, correct? 12 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 13 can answer. 14 We fell short. We did not -- we did 15 not meet the policy there. 16 BY MR. EDWARDS: 17 Because, again, the failure to timely Q. 18 print core labels as you're supposed to do on 19 Tuesdays, that results in price changes at the 20 register that wouldn't be reflected on the 21 shelf, correct? 22 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 23 can answer. 24 Α. There is a -- there is a -- there is

Page 196 a piece of that where in real life there are 1 2 toner issues, parts issues, printer issues. 3 And stores do partner with each other; I'm going to go across town, I'm going to -- I'm 4 5 going to get a label printed and take it back to my store. Certainly not for 98 stores. 6 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: 8 Ο. Okay. Certainly not. There is an element 9 Α. 10 of -- you know, not for lack of trying when 11 there are whatever percentage of equipment 12 issues occur. 13 Okay. All right. Do you have O. 14 Exhibit 12 up? 15 Α. I do. 16 I think this is another example of Q. 17 the same type of report now in February of 18 2022 where Jessica is again following up and 19 noting the failure to timely print labels on 20 Tuesdays; is that right? 21 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 22 can answer. 23 That's -- that's correct. Α. 2.4 BY MR. EDWARDS:

Page 197 And here it looks like 58 total 1 2 stores in Division 1 had completed their 3 printing as required on Tuesday; is that 4 right? That's what it shows. 5 Α. 6 MR. EDWARDS: Go ahead and mark the 7 next exhibit, that will be Exhibit 13. 8 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 9 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 13 TO THE TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 10 11 HERETO.) 12 THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's trying to 13 load. Okay, I've got it up. 14 BY MR. EDWARDS: 15 This is another e-mail to -- from 16 Jessica Smith to the team talking about 17 Tuesday core price label printing execution 18 and it's dated April 5th, 2022. Do you see 19 that? 20 In a different order, I see it now. Α. 21 Q. There is an e-mail below that -- the 22 from is store compliance. Do you see that? 23 Α. I do. 24 At this time in 2022 -- April of Q.

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Page 198 2022, would you have been included on any 1 2 e-mails from store compliance? 3 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 4 can answer. I was. I was included on this e-mail 5 6 in the piloting of another report. 7 Okay. Let's go up to the first Ο. sentence at the top of the page from Jessica 8 9 to her team, it states: R-16. Is that Region 10 16? 11 It is. Α. 12 Q. So that is Region 16 in New York, 13 correct? 14 That's correct. Is probably one of the best executing 15 16 regions out there and I'd like to make sure 17 that we continue the trend with price changes. 18 Do you see that? 19 T do. Α. 20 Do you disagree that Region 16 in Ο. 21 April of 2022 was one of the best executing 22 regions? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 24 can answer.

- A. I don't have -- I don't have context
 to -- to how that region was performing at
- 3 | that time.
- 4 BY MR. EDWARDS:
- Q. Go to the second page. It looks like
- 6 a screen shot which sets forth some -- well,
- 7 on the left, do you see that it looks like you
- 8 can click state details, division details,
- 9 region details, district details, store
- 10 details, store printing details. Do you see
- 11 that?
- 12 A. I do.
- 13 O. What software is this? Does this
- 14 | screen shot come from? Or what program if you
- 15 know?
- MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You
- 17 | can answer.
- 18 A. This particular format looks like it
- 19 came out of a Microsoft Power BI -- Power BI
- 20 system.
- 21 BY MR. EDWARDS:
- 22 Q. Okay. The subject on the page before
- 23 | is new Power BI report. So that is consistent
- 24 | with what you've testified to, correct?

A. Correct.

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Q. Okay. And this Power BI report would have been available even before the program implementation of the change that you talked about in early 2023 to allow managers to assess what percentage of labels were printed on time printed on late or printed late, not printed, et cetera, correct?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.

- A. That's correct. When there -- this did launch. It was announced as a launch. There were -- in the initial -- as I recall, there were some issues with the reporting in the initial phases. So it wasn't it -- it launched. And then as I recall it was pulled back for a time to insure that all the IT inputs and everything was correct. I don't
- 20 BY MR. EDWARDS:
- Q. Did this Power BI report continue in to 2023?
- 23 A. The power --

recall the re-launch date.

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You

Page 201 1 can answer. 2 Α. Yeah, the Power BI report has been --3 yes, has been available in 2023. BY MR. EDWARDS: 4 Okay. Do you know when this became 5 6 available? Like what year? 7 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. Α. Well, it first became available when, 8 9 Alex, the store compliance team announced it here in 2021. I know it went dark for a time 10 11 and then it came back. I don't -- I don't 12 recall the details. I would -- I would have 13 to check on that. 14 BY MR. EDWARDS: 15 Okay. So it looks to me like in this 16 report you can break this down by state, 17 division, region, et cetera. All the way down 18 to the store details, correct? 19 That was how it initially rolled out. 20 There may have been some changes before we 21 re-launched it. 22 Ο. Okay. 23 Α. It is how it initially rolled out. 2.4 Q. So this is telling us for this

Page 202 particular division as of 4-5-2022 -- well, 1 2 it's a 4 week average as to what labels were 3 printed on time versus late versus not printed, correct? 4 That's correct. 5 6 It also gives us a week by week 7 breakdown, correct? I believe it gives us a 4 week 8 9 breakdown. A 4 week average and then a breakdown of the 4 weeks. 10 11 The 4 weeks making up that 4 week Ο. 12 average? 13 Α. That's correct. 14 Okay. So the 4 week leading into 15 April 5th of 2022 indicates that in this New 16 York division -- that's Division 1 -- 77 17 percent of the labels were printed on time, 18 correct? 19 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 20 can answer. 21 Α. That's what it shows, yes. 22 BY MR. EDWARDS: 23 And then 15 percent were printed Ο. 24 late, correct?

Page 203 1 It's a little blurry, but yeah, 2 that's what it shows. 3 Q. All right. And then 9 percent were not printed at all? 4 5 At the time of the report, yes. Okay. Then if we go down to Division 6 Q. 7 5 -- is that also in New York? There were a very small number of 8 Α. 9 stores at that time in New York. I believe we've realigned them all so they're all in one 10 11 division now. But at that time there was a 12 very small number of stores in 5. 13 Okay. And that shows us over that 4 O. 14 week average leading up to 4-5-2022, 70 15 percent of stores in Division 5 printed on 16 time, 18 percent printed late and 13 percent 17 didn't print at all, correct? 18 It's blurry, but I would say that's 19 correct. 20 All right. And that's not Ο.

acceptable -- neither of these are acceptable to Dollar General, correct?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You

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can answer.

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A. Neither of those are acceptable or are according to our policy.

BY MR. EDWARDS:

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- O. Are these both in -- I can't tell.
- 5 Are these both in Region 16?
- A. When you say, both, both the one in
- 9 A. So it's so hard to see I can't --

Division 5. Yeah?

the -- both the Division 1 and the --

- 10 they wouldn't be because regions align only to
- 11 one division. So I believe in -- at the time
- 12 | in Division 5 we had one region. And it might
- 13 be too much information, but the reason for
- that is we had a husband and wife and, you
- 15 know, separated those so that they were not
- 16 under the same DVPA in the division.
- 17 Q. I see. I'm just going back to this
- 18 R-16 at beginning of the e-mail from Jessica.
- 19 Does one of these include a Region 16, either
- 20 Division 1 or 5?
- 21 A. One. So Jessica is the leader of
- 22 Region 16, so it appears in this e-mail
- 23 | Jessica is weighing in --
- 24 Q. Right?

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-- on her. But yet there are -- and
she addresses it to her team. So she's got
her district manager team copied there. She
didn't copy anyone else in any other region.
So she took the e-mail from store compliance,
she shared it with her district managers.
         MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Let's go ahead
and mark the next exhibit and that will be
Exhibit 14.
         (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED
DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 14 TO THE
TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED
HERETO.)
         MR. TAYLOR: Adam, let me just ask
you this: Is this -- is this a full copy of
the e-mail or an excerpt?
         MR. EDWARDS: It's kind of what you
see is what you get. This is the one I would
like to ask her about. It appears to me that
there is -- there may be something above this
but I didn't mark it all as an exhibit?
         MR. TAYLOR: Well, I mean, for the
record I'm going to object to giving -- you
know, pulling out a part of an e-mail and
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Page 206 asking about it, but she can do the best she 1 2 can with it? 3 MR. EDWARDS: Sure. Yeah, I don't know -- I don't know how it was produced. It 4 5 could have been produced this way for all I I don't know, Trent, but the objection 6 7 is noted. THE WITNESS: Okay. I have it up. 8 9 BY MR. EDWARDS: Okay. So I'm looking at an e-mail to 10 11 you from Caleb Lumby dated February 2nd, 2022. Do you see that? 12 13 Α. T do. 14 And it relates to NCI light conference call notes. What is an NCI light 15 16 conference call? 17 We talked earlier about NCI being a Α. particular specific layout for Dollar General 18 19 that has more non-core sort of surprise and 20 delight treasure hunt product. When -- when 21 that first launched it was very successful. 22 And so the merchant were -- the merchants were 23 very interested, well, we know we can't 24 replicate this throughout all of our layouts.

Page 207 There isn't room or, you know, whatever 1 2 physical barriers that might be so they came 3 up with what would be a light version. the light version was -- was simply a 4 5 reduction in space of -- you know, in a 6 regular NCI store it might be X-number of 7 sections. In the light stores it was maybe 8 half that. 9 Ο. Okay? Now, we could provide a treasure hunt 10 Α. 11 experience to the customer in those stores, 12 just not at the same scale. 13 Okay. It looks like on February 2nd O. 14 at 11:34 -- I'm looking at the bottom of the 15 page -- you're asking Caleb to shoot you over 16 to review prior to handing off to Driveline. 17 Do you see that? 18 Α. I do. 19 What is Driveline? O. 20 Driveline is a third-party vendor Α. 21 that performs merchandising work for Dollar 22 General. 23 Do you guys still use Driveline? Ο. 2.4 Α. We do.

Page 208 A third-party vendor that provides 1 2 merchandising work, correct? 3 Α. That's correct. Resetting plan-o-grams, predominantly. 4 5 So they're the experts on how to 6 layout products on a plan-o-gram to maximize 7 sales? Objection to form. 8 MR. TAYLOR: 9 BY MR. EDWARDS: Is that what you mean by 10 Ο. 11 merchandising? 12 Α. They are executioners. So 13 they -- they take the -- so, you know, we 14 talked about the plan-o-gram bag that comes in 15 the fullment center and the store takes that 16 bag and it's got strips and it's got a 17 schematic. Well, in some of these plan-o-grams the merchandising team or vendors 18 19 pay Driveline to go in and execute that 20 schematic and those shelf strips. 21 Q. Okay? 22 Not performed by a Dollar General 23 employee but performed by Driveline.

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Okay. So it appears -- I'm looking

2.4

Q.

Page 209 at Caleb's e-mail to you, it appears that on a 1 2 call a district manager had brought up a 3 concern around pricing. Do you see that? Looking at the sentence of the first 4 5 paragraph? 6 Α. I'm reading it now. Okay. This was 7 right around that time frame. Actually very very early when we first started to see an 8 9 increase in core labels. But, yes, I'm -- I'm familiar with what Caleb is talking about. 10 11 You say, around the time we started Ο. 12 seeing an increase in core labels, are you 13 talking about an increase in overcharging? 14 Α. No. 15 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 16 can answer. 17 No, I'm -- I'm referring to the year Α. 18 of 2022, coming out of Covid, being an 19 unprecedented time with price increases. 20 Ο. Okay. 21 So -- yeah, I refer to that several 22 times throughout that it was the sheer number 23 due to inflation, passing along cost increases 2.4 from vendors. There were a large number of

Page 210 shelf labels in '22. And our fiscal year 1 2 starts in February. We certainly -- it was 3 way too early to see that, you know, but it did start in 2022. 4 2022 is when you -- when Dollar 5 General realized that it needed to make 6 7 changes to pricing policies to address the increase -- overall increase in prices that 8 9 were being seen? 10 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 11 can answer. As the year unfolded and it wasn't 12 Α. 13 readily apparent at the beginning of the year. 14 But yes, as I referred to before, it was -- as 15 it unfolded, these were just numbers we had 16 never seen before. 17 BY MR. EDWARDS: 18 In terms of the number of price Ο. 19 increases? 20 Price -- price increases, yes. Α. 21 Ο. So inflation was happening. The cost 22 of products in your stores was going up, 23 correct? 24 Α. That's right.

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Q. So for Dollar General to continue to operate at a sufficient profit you had to increase the prices that you sold those products for, correct?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.

- A. You know, the vendor -- in a lot of cases the vendor -- we all experienced as customers things being out of stock because, you know, vendors couldn't keep up with production or they didn't have people to work in their -- in their factories and warehouses. They reformulated a lot of products and -- and also came up with new products. As the infusion of those type of assortment changes came in, along with what we were already carrying from the vendors, we experienced price increases. They passed on cost increases to us.
- Q. You had to pass those along to the consumer, right, to continue to operate at a profit?
- 23 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.

A. Yes.

BY MR. EDWARDS:

Q. So let's walk through this e-mail.

Caleb states: On the call a DM had brought up a concern around pricing since our labels are printed weeks in advance.

Did I read that right?

- A. You read this right, yes.
- Q. It then it goes on to state: It is many changes as we are seeing on a weekly basis there is a certain that after the new strips are installed by Driveline, we could have many products that are not reflective of the new price, putting us in a compliance risk.

Explain what is going on here?

A. Sure. So what's going on here -- you know, thankfully there was a solve -- what's going on here is 8 weeks in advance of this NCI light project. The project center that essentially has an order from Dollar General to print these plan-o-grams, to print these shelf strips, to print these labels for our NCI light project. In order for that vendor

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Page 213 to be able to fulfill those orders, they're 1 2 going to start that work 6 to 8 weeks in 3 advance, and in years prior had not been an 4 issue. In this new environment in 2022, it 5 becomes an issue. Because NCI light boxes are being prepared 6 to 8 weeks in advance. When 6 7 they land in the store in February, some price changes had been taken that impact what is in 8 9 that box. 10 That is what Caleb is saying. 11 Right. So by the time the -- the Ο. pre-printed strips come from Driveline, the 12 13 price had already gone up but the strips 14 didn't reflect it? 15 Α. That's correct. 16 Q. Okay? 17 And, you know, they're -- so Caleb is Α. 18 bringing that to me based on what he heard 19 from the district manager, so that we can get 20 to a solution. 21 Q. Okay. And this was would have been 22 nationwide, I presume, not any particular state? 23 That's correct. It would have 2.4 Α.

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been -- it would have been nationwide.

- Q. Okay. And what was -- what was the solution and when was it put into effect?
- Α. The solution that -- and Caleb really 4 presents part of it in his e-mail as well as 5 you can see. There is two solutions to this 6 7 And so Caleb describes one solution, printing plan-o-grams which is a solution. 8 9 The other solution is what we've talked about 10 earlier and that's a force print. So once we 11 found out -- and all of this unfolding in real 12 time like, oh, wow, yeah. Now these boxes 13 have strips that have some number of incorrect 14 prices on them, how are we going to solve 15 So the way that we solved it was to 16 send a force print. So, you know, we have a 17 SKU list of what went in these boxes for the 18 NCI lights and we partnered, you know, with 19 the appropriate teams. And the reason that we 20 choose to do a force print is we don't want to 21 put that on the store to have to go do manual 22 scanning and spending time bringing up 23 plan-o-grams and printing them, when it's 2.4 something that someone upstream can do.

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Page 215 is so much more efficient. 1 2 Q. Okay. 3 Α. So to solve this, we did force 4 prints. 5 MR. EDWARDS: Let's take what I hope 6 is our last break of the day. 7 THE WITNESS: Sounds good. (WHEREUPON, A BRIEF RECESS WAS TAKEN 8 9 AND THE PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:) BY MR. EDWARDS: 10 11 All right. So while we had a break, Ο. I messed up my exhibits a little bit. So what 12 13 I'd like for you to do is just skip ahead to 14 Exhibit 16? We'll just skip Exhibit 15. 15 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED 16 DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 16 TO THE 17 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 18 HERETO.) 19 BY MR. EDWARDS: 20 Q. And just --21 It's not here, but let me refresh and 22 try again. 23 THE WITNESS: Do you have it, Trent? 24 MR. TAYLOR: I do.

Page 216 1 Okay, there it is. Okay, I see it 2 now. 3 BY MR. EDWARDS: 4 Okay. So I'm looking at an e-mail Q. 5 from Mark Cartwright. Do you know Mark 6 Cartwright? 7 Α. I do not. Okay. It appears that he's one of 8 Ο. 9 the district managers from the e-mail? That is in his signature, yes. 10 Α. 11 Okay. So here he is reaching out to Ο. store compliance and a lot of operations 12 communications and some other individuals. Do 13 14 you see that? 15 Α. I do. 16 Ο. And this is in May of 2022. Do you 17 see that? 18 Α. I do. 19 This appears to be addressing the 20 same problems that we looked at in the 21 previous exhibit related to Driveline and this 22 issue about Driveline doing plan-o-grams with 23 pricing that are sometimes many weeks old. 24 Does that appear to be the case to you?

Page 217

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.

- A. Reading through it, it does appear to be the same -- the same situation with a group of POGs that he has discovered in his stores from Driveline.
- 7 | BY MR. EDWARDS:

- Q. And just to refresh, when Caleb brought this to your attention in the previous exhibit that was on February 22nd, 2022, and this e-mail dated May 20th, 2022, indicates that the problem was still ongoing; is that fair?
- MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form.

 Objection, misstates prior testimony. You can answer.
 - A. What we talked about prior was a project -- was an initiative project. So this is part of our regular plan-o-gram season.

 So, you know, typically on projects those do get printed way in advance. In the case of POGs -- what I think Mark is saying here is the same situation, different -- you know, different things. This is now -- this is now

Page 218 1 affecting some plan-o-grams according to Mark. 2 BY MR. EDWARDS: 3 Q. Okay. Did the situation that Caleb brought up on February 2nd, 2022, after he had 4 5 a call with a DM not involve plan-o-grams? MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 6 7 can answer. It -- it involved a non-core 8 Α. 9 initiative project. So, I mean, the answer to 10 that is, no, it didn't involve plan-o-grams. 11 It was a project for a group of specific 12 stores related to non-core project -- or 13 non-core product. 14 BY MR. EDWARDS: 15 Okay. Yeah, because if we go back --16 well, the document -- the document speaks for 17 itself. It does speak to plan-o-gram labels 18 but --19 MR. TAYLOR: Hold on. Hold on. Time out. You can't testify for the witness. 20 21 you want to ask a question, ask your question. 22 MR. EDWARDS: Yeah, I was in the 23 middle of asking a question when you jumped in 24 there, Trent. Let's go --

Page 219 1 MR. TAYLOR: Free feel to --2 BY MR. EDWARDS: 3 O. Let's go back to Exhibit 14. Trent wants to do this the long way, we can do that. 4 5 Go back to Exhibit 14, please? MR. TAYLOR: Then I'm just going to 6 7 go on the record, Adam, you cannot testify for the witness, okay? That's not the long way, 8 9 that's the correct way. 10 MR. EDWARDS: Trent, I'm certainly 11 aware of the law just like you're aware of the law that states that you can't testify during 12 13 a deposition that I am taking. So please make 14 your objections, keep them to form and don't 15 give me legal advice because I know -- I know 16 how to take a deposition. But I appreciate 17 it? 18 BY MR. EDWARDS: 19 Let's go to exhibit --Q. 20 MR. TAYLOR: Adam, I'm going to put 21 on the record, I don't think it's appropriate for you to testify for the witness. Ask your 22 23 next question? 24 MR. EDWARDS: Trent, I'm trying to

Page 220 1 ask my next question. Please shut up so I can 2 do that. BY MR. EDWARDS: 3 4 Please go to Exhibit 14. Ο. 5 MR. TAYLOR: Adam -- Adam, I'm not 6 going to let you tell me to shut up on the 7 That is inappropriate. record. MR. EDWARDS: Please stop talking so 8 9 I can ask the question. 10 MR. TAYLOR: So ask your question. 11 BY MR. EDWARDS: Please turn to Exhibit 14? That is 12 Ο. 13 the 4th time I've tried? 14 We are there. We are at Exhibit 14. 15 Thank you. Exhibit 14, the last Ο. bullet point under project week. Will you 16 17 please read that? 18 To insure pricing on all items are 19 correct, print the new plan-o-gram labels for 20 the store net PC and audit the areas that 21 receive plan-o-gram strips during the remodel 22 with an HHC. Labels printed from store net PC 23 will be the most up-to-date. 24 Q. Does that suggestion refer to

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Page 221 1 plan-o-grams? 2 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 3 can answer. It -- it does. And as I understand 4 Α. 5 NCI projects, they involve non-core product. So I'm unsure, in this example -- and I'm --6 7 based on what I'm looking at, I'm looking at -- and this is just based on my history and 8 9 working with Driveline -- I'm looking at a copy paste from a letter of authorization. 10 11 So, you know, this to me -- I don't understand 12 the last bullet point because NCI is a non-core initiative. 13 14 Ο. Okay. It doesn't have plan-o-grams. 15 16 Q. So let's go to his e-mail to you. 17 The body of the e-mail itself, back on Exhibit 18 14. Do you see the next to last sentence 19 which starts with "our best practice in 20 Kansas"? 21 I do. And what Caleb is referring to 22 there --23 So will you just read that for me? Ο. 24 Our best practice in Kansas to insure Α.

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Page 222 1 we are in compliance was to print the 2 plan-o-gram labels from the office printer if 3 we had any plan-o-grams done that were several weeks behind to insure we captured any pricing 4 5 changes that may have occurred before the set was completed. I have incorporated the best 6 7 practice info into the conference call notes 8 below. 9 So from that I glean that Caleb took 10 something from his experience as a DM related 11 to plan-o-grams and added it as a bullet point to a non-core initiative project. And the 12 13 non-core project doesn't -- doesn't include 14 plan-o-grams. 15 So as I understood at a high level, 16 this e-mail exchange from your testimony 17 before -- correct me if I'm wrong -- I 18 understood there to be a problem that Caleb 19 was identifying wherein price changes were 20 happening at an increased rate, correct? 21 Α. Correct. 22 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 23 can answer. 2.4 BY MR. EDWARDS:

Page 223

Q. And the materials being sent or being placed by Driveline often include prices that were in some cases weeks old?

MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form.

BY MR. EDWARDS:

- Q. Is that right?
- A. That's correct. There is one important distinction in that this is a -- this is a non-core project that is a launch. It's new. And so it doesn't exist in the store yet.
 - Q. Okay.
- A. And because it doesn't exist in the store, labels and strips have to be provided. And so what happened in this scenario is there were files for this project that were wrapped up, submitted, off to press we go, you know, 8 and 10 weeks in advance to support the zone core project. Because some non-core does have -- they do have price labels. In the meantime, someone -- probably the pricing team -- took increases on this non-core product. Because during -- during the time of unprecedented price changes, we not only

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Page 224 changed prices on core products, we changed 1 2 prices on some non-core products as well. 3 Q. Okay. So let's go back to Exhibit 16. 4 5 Α. Okay. 6 This e-mail from Mark Cartwright, if Q. 7 you would, read the second sentence through 8 the end of that paragraph please? 9 sentence that starts with "stores are getting 10 price changes"? 11 Store are getting price changes on a weekly basis which are hung each Tuesday and 12 13 reflected at the POS. Driveline then 14 completes a POG revision and hangs the strips 15 that were printed several weeks in the past 16 which represented the old retails. This is 17 causing numerous price variations across all 18 stores and is placing Dollar General at risk 19 for service disruption and fines from state 20 and federal government agencies. 21 Q. Okay. Then he lists a number of 22 specific examples, correct? 23 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form.

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can answer?

Page 225 He does list examples here. Yes, I 1 see those. 2 3 BY MR. EDWARDS: And then he -- why don't you read me 4 5 the last sentence on the page, please? Thank you in advance for your support 6 Α. 7 or? No, sorry. The last sentence that is 8 Ο. 9 on that page? 10 Α. It cares. It starts with "this is happening"? 11 Ο. 12 Α. Poor grammar here. It starts with 13 this is happening. 14 Yes, right under the examples. 15 Okay. What -- what am I missing 16 here? Right under the examples. I got you. 17 This is happening across all districts as I 18 have spoken to my peers. 19 Okay. So Mark is a district 20 manager -- it appears from -- correct? 21 Α. He is, from his signature. 22 All right. It appears from this 23 e-mail that he's spoken to his peers, other 24 district managers, correct?

Page 226 1 That's --Α. 2 MR. TAYLOR: Object to the form. 3 Α. That's what he's stating. BY MR. EDWARDS: 4 And this problem that he described 5 that you just read appears to be happening 6 across all districts according to 7 Mr. Cartwright, correct? 8 9 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 10 can answer. 11 Α. That is what he is stating, yes. 12 BY MR. EDWARDS: 13 Okay. Do you know or do you have --O. 14 do you disagree that this issue with Driveline 15 hanging up prices that didn't reflect in some 16 cases the price changes for these products do 17 you know if that was completely resolved at 18 some point? 19 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 20 can answer. 21 This does not -- I don't have 22 personal knowledge of this. This does not -it doesn't appear -- you know, this is an 23 24 e-mail exchange. What I don't see here --

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Page 227 what I don't have knowledge of is how does 1 2 store compliance respond. BY MR. EDWARDS: 3 4 O. Right? 5 So, you know, we see it's from 6 Johanna but I don't see how store compliance 7 responded to it. And -- and I don't know. So sitting here today, you don't know 8 9 one way or the other whether this issue with Driveline has been fixed? 10 11 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. 12 can answer. 13 Sitting here today, the issue with Α. 14 Driveline -- the one that is mentioned here 15 has been solved systemically with force 16 prints. 17 BY MR. EDWARDS: 18 Okay. And force prints came along Ο. 19 early 2023; is that right? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 21 can answer. 22 I don't recall the exact time. Α. Ιt 23 may have been -- it may have been 0-4 of last 24 year. I just -- I don't have recall of what

Page 228 1 the exact date was. 2 BY MR. EDWARDS: 3 Q. So our -- sorry. You go ahead? No, you're fine. Go ahead? 4 Α. 5 It looks like force print was introduced at the end of 2022 and implemented 6 7 in 2023. Does that sound right? MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 8 9 can answer. I -- I would only be speculating if I 10 said that because it did -- I believe so but I 11 12 don't have personal knowledge of -- or can't 13 recall the exact date. 14 BY MR. EDWARDS: 15 Q. Okay, I appreciate that. 16 How were -- how did the communication work with Driveline? In other 17 18 words, who communicated with Driveline about 19 assignments? 20 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 21 can answer. BY MR. EDWARDS: 22 23 O. Or what department? It's -- it's a different area of the 24 Α.

Page 229 company. It resides under merchandising 1 2 support. Driveline there is -- you know, 3 they're a third-party vendor. And so oversight of Driveline is managed by -- who is 4 5 a currently vice president in merchandising support. 6 7 What his or her name? 0. A. His name is Scott Miller, 8 9 Ο. Scott Miller. Okay. 10 MR. EDWARDS: I'm going to mark 11 Exhibit 17. This is a big one. I'll warn 12 you, it's a spreadsheet. So --13 Α. Okay. 14 I'll give you plenty of time to let Ο. 15 that load. 16 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 17 TO THE 17 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 18 19 HERETO.) 20 All right. It's coming over. Α. 21 MR. EDWARDS: Shoot. I think I might 22 have to do it again because I don't know if my sticker worked. It's not stickered. Okav. 23 I'm going to sticker it. You know, it's it we 24

Page 230

- 1 let me unlabel to do the stamp. Well, that's
- 2 okay. Maybe the court reporter can figure out
- 3 how to put a stamp on this big spreadsheet.
- 4 Actually, this is not a -- this is not a super
- 5 | big spreadsheet. I think it might be the next
- 6 one.
- 7 BY MR. EDWARDS:
- Q. I'm just going to ask you if you know
- 9 what this is? Have you ever seen this before
- 10 or do you have any idea what data this might
- 11 reflect?
- 12 A. Well, when I look at the data I -- I
- 13 understand the headers of the -- with the
- 14 columns. What -- you know, what it doesn't
- 15 have is it doesn't have a title of -- you
- 16 know, there is no report title. So it has
- 17 store numbers, it has an inspection date, the
- 18 | number of items expected -- inspected, an
- 19 overcharge error rate and a penalty. So I
- 20 understand the columns. I don't necessarily
- 21 | understand, you know, a date range or -- I
- 22 don't know store numbers by heart necessarily
- 23 of --
- 24 Q. Right?

Page 231

- A. -- what areas or anything.
- Q. Do you know if these reflect internal audits?
- 4 MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 5 can answer.
 - A. Well -- and, you know, by the -- when you say, internal audit, and as I'm looking at this, there is a penalty associated with these.

10 BY MR. EDWARDS:

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- Q. Yeah, that's why I was asking. The number of items inspected is 50, which is consistent with some of the internal audits that I've seen from Dollar General, but then there is a \$300 flat fee penalty page that doesn't make sense I wonder if it makes sense to you?
- A. It does not. The 50 is -- is the number on our store compliance visit, but, you know, we don't do internal findings so I'm not sure what it is.
- Q. Right. You're familiar with a lot of these governmental audits, the way they work.

 Have you ever seen -- have you ever seen a

Page 232 1 governmental audit which charged the same 2 penalty at a 6 percent error rate versus a 34 3 percent error rate, for example? MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You 4 5 can answer. 6 I can't -- you know, I can't -- as 7 many violations, you know, over the -- you know, over the years, I have seen violations. 8 9 It seems odd to me that you would have a 6 10 percent at \$300 and then a 30 percent at \$300. 11 BY MR. EDWARDS: 12 Q. Right. Usually the fines go up with 13 the -- the worst of the violation, right? 14 Without a header of the methodology 15 they used, it's -- it's -- you just don't 16 know. 17 MR. EDWARDS: All right. What I feel 18 will be the last exhibit -- unless me and 19 Trent get to scrapping again maybe that will 20 throw a few more. I apologize for saying shut 21 up by the way. 22 MR. TAYLOR: That's okay. 23 MR. EDWARDS: It's late and that's 24 not okay, so I apologize. It's getting late

Page 233 1 here and I'm getting hungry, so we need to 2 wrap this up. MR. TAYLOR: Adam, Exhibit 18 looks 3 to be the same as Exhibit 17. I don't know if 4 5 that was your intention? 6 MR. EDWARDS: No. 7 THE WITNESS: It's good a thing these are coming up for you quickly, Trent. 8 9 MR. EDWARDS: All right. So now Exhibit 18 is just a duplicate of Exhibit 17? 10 11 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS EXHIBIT NO. 18 TO THE 12 13 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 14 HERETO.) 15 MR. EDWARDS: And this will now be 16 Exhibit 19. 17 (WHEREUPON, THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOCUMENT WAS MARKED AS Exhibit NO. 19 TO THE 18 19 TESTIMONY OF THE WITNESS, AND IS ATTACHED 20 HERETO.) 21 MR. EDWARDS: Because there may be a way to figure out how to mark the exhibit box 22 but I haven't figured it out. I don't think 23 24 it lets you delete them.

Page 234 1 BY MR. EDWARDS: 2 0. Okay. Just let me know when you're 3 there? Okay. Just waiting for it to come 4 Α. 5 up. Okay. Is this 6 pages with a header at the top that says, NOV Report. Is that what I 6 should be looking at? 7 BY MR. EDWARDS: 8 Correct. That's correct? 9 Ο. 10 Α. Okay. Because it's marked 18 -well, it's marked Exhibit 19, 18 spreadsheet. 11 12 Q. Right? 13 Α. Okay. 14 Is this a document that you're Ο. 15 familiar with? 16 I'm just reviewing the -- I Α. understand the data that is on the document. 17 18 I'm not -- I don't recall this coming to me in the form of an e-mail. It's not familiar to 19 20 me in that way. It has an odd formatting to 21 it. It does. What is -- do you know what 22 Ο. NOV is? 23 24 Α. Notice of violation.

Page 235

- Q. Okay. So this appears to summarize in New York, pricing violations in 2021. Is that what it looks like to you?
- A. If I scroll through trying to get down to page 3 there is Erie. I don't understand page 4. There is more Erie. Yeah, that is what it appears to be.
- Q. Okay. All right. And unlike the last document, this appears to be kind of all over the place in terms of the -- the fine exposure amount, right? They vary.
- MR. TAYLOR: Objection to form. You can answer.
- 14 BY MR. EDWARDS:

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- Q. Do you see the fine exposure amounts vary?
- 17 A. I do. I see that there are no
 18 amounts and then varying amounts from 100 on
 19 up.
- Q. I think I understand what NOV
 inspection type weights and measures means.
 Do you know what UPC means?
- 23 A. UPC stands for universal product code
- 24 and so I know what a UPC is. It's a number

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Page 236
     with an accompanying barcode -- in the context
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 2
     of this report, I don't know how they're using
 3
     it.
              Yeah. Okay. I don't either, thought
 4
         0.
     I would ask.
 5
6
              MR. EDWARDS: Okay. I am at the end
7
     of my list of things to ask you about. Give
8
     me 5 minutes to talk with co-counsel and then
9
     I suspect we'll wrap it up. Sound good?
10
              MR. TAYLOR: Sounds good.
11
              THE WITNESS: Sounds good.
12
              MR. EDWARDS: Okay. Thank you.
13
              (WHEREUPON, A BRIEF RECESS WAS TAKEN
14
     AND THE PROCEEDINGS CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:)
15
              MR. EDWARDS: All right. I have no
16
     more questions for this witness.
17
              MR. TAYLOR: All right. I don't have
18
     any questions either, so I guess we're done.
19
     And Madam Court Reporter, I don't know if
20
     there is any other administrative things that
21
     you need from us, but we'll read and sign.
22
23
              (WHEREUPON, THE DEPOSITION CONCLUDED
24
     AT 5:28 p.m.)
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Page 237
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                 (AND FURTHER DEPONENT SAITH NOT)
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                (SIGNATURE NOT WAIVED)
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Page 238 1 CERTIFICATE 2 STATE OF TENNESSEE 3 COUNTY OF SHELBY 4 5 I, Dana May Webb, LCR #109, Licensed Court Reporter, in and for the State of 6 Tennessee, do hereby certify that the above proceeding was reported by me, and the 7 transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability. 8 I further certify that I am not related 9 to nor an employee of counsel or any of the parties to the action, nor am I in any way financially interested in the outcome of this 10 case. 11 I further certify that I am duly 12 licensed by the Tennessee Board of Court Reporting as a Licensed Court Reporter as evidenced by the LCR number and expiration 13 date following my name below. 14 I further certify that this transcript 15 is the work product of this court reporting agency and any unauthorized reproduction and/or transfer of it will be in violation of 16 Tennessee Code Annotated 39-14-104, Theft of 17 Services. Daram. Webb 18 19 Dana May Webb, CCR, LCR #109 Expiration Date 06-30-2024 20 VERITEXT CORPORATION 21 236 Adams Avenue Memphis, Tennessee 38103 22 23 24 25

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Page 239 1 Trent Taylor, Esq. 2 rtaylor@mcguirewoods.com 3 December 28, 2023 4 RE: Wolf, Joseph, Et Al. v. Dollar General Corporation, Et Al. 12/14/2023, Mia Savaloja, Volume II (#6347862) The above-referenced transcript is available for 6 7 review. 8 Within the applicable timeframe, the witness should 9 read the testimony to verify its accuracy. If there are 10 any changes, the witness should note those with the 11 reason, on the attached Errata Sheet. 12 The witness should sign the Acknowledgment of 13 Deponent and Errata and return to the deposing attorney. 14 Copies should be sent to all counsel, and to Veritext at 15 transcripts-fl@veritext.com 16 17 Return completed errata within 30 days from receipt of testimony. 18 If the witness fails to do so within the time 19 20 allotted, the transcript may be used as if signed. 21 22 Yours, 23 Veritext Legal Solutions 2.4 25

		Page	e 240
Wolf, Jos	seph, Et A	al. v. Dollar General Corporation	, Et Al.
Mia Sava	loja, Volu	me II (#6347862)	
	E	CRRATA SHEET	
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REASON			
PAGE	_ LINE	CHANGE	
REASON			
Mia Sava	Loja, Volu	me II Date	

Veritext Legal Solutions

Page 241 Wolf, Joseph, Et Al. v. Dollar General Corporation, Et Al. 1 2 Mia Savaloja, Volume II (#6347862) ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEPONENT 3 4 I, Mia Savaloja, Volume II, do hereby declare that I 5 have read the foregoing transcript, I have made any corrections, additions, or changes I deemed necessary as 6 7 noted above to be appended hereto, and that the same is a true, correct and complete transcript of the testimony 8 given by me. 9 10 11 12 Mia Savaloja, Volume II Date *If notary is required 13 14 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS _____, DAY OF _____, 20____, 15 16 17 18 19 NOTARY PUBLIC 2.0 21 22 2.3 24 25

Veritext Legal Solutions

[00558 - 24th] Page 242

0 00558 136:7	13 139:16 197:7 197:9 203:16	233:3,10,12 234:10,11	2023 136:16 137:2 140:11
06-30-2024	130 138:4 14 136:16 139:17 205:9,11 219:3,5 220:4 220:12 14 15	181 139:13 18th 173:19 19 139:22 233:16,18	142:3 144:23 145:17 146:7,17 146:21 147:23 157:23 158:23
1 183:10 190:10 192:16,19 194:5 194:13,14,17 195:8 197:2 202:16 204:7,20 1.00 165:2 10 139:13 163:21 180:8,11 194:13 223:18 10.65 165:11 100 154:19 157:2,15 177:9 235:18 101 138:4 1065 164:24 177:18 109 238:5,19 11 139:14 185:2 185:23 189:9,11 190:22 191:1 11.78 151:14 1100 138:7 11:34 207:14 12 139:15 193:16,18 196:14	220:12,14,15 221:18 141 139:3 142 186:18 14th 137:2 15 139:18 194:15 202:23 215:14 152 139:8 1520 138:4 16 139:19 190:9 190:12 194:17 198:9,10,12,20 204:5,18,19,22 215:14,16 224:4 166 139:9 169 139:10 17 139:20,21 229:11,17 233:4 233:10 17,550 153:24 173 139:11 179 139:12 17th 155:1 166:13 173:2,11 173:13,17 174:16,20 175:7 18 139:21	234:11 190 139:14 194 139:15 198 139:16 1st 147:24 2 2 173:7 174:12	169:2 170:9 171:24 172:16 173:5,14,19 174:17,21 175:8 175:12 176:1 177:2 182:3 183:21 190:20 200:5,22 201:3 227:19 228:7 239:3 2043 150:2 206 139:17 20th 217:11 21 177:16 216 139:18,19 22 147:1,2 155:22 166:12 210:1 22nd 217:10 230 139:20 23219 138:13 234 139:21,22 236 136:21 138:23 238:21 24 187:22 247-0080 138:8 24th 171:24 172:15 173:4,14
239:5	160:21 203:16	217:11 218:4 228:6	174:17 175:8,12

Veritext Legal Solutions

[24th - accompanying]

Page 243

	1	I	
176:5 177:2	45 158:18	232:2,9 234:5	90 158:20
26646 238:19	161:20	6-14 169:1,12	161:21
28 239:3	49 185:2,11,19	6-14-23 169:18	901 138:24
2:30 137:5	4th 220:13	63 177:8	901-523-8974
2nd 206:11	5	6347862 239:5	136:22
207:13 218:4	5 139:8 151:22	240:2 241:2	925 167:6
3	151:24 153:16	68 167:14,18,22	965 164:23
3 167:14 235:5	164:13 172:20	7	98 192:24 194:4
30 187:22	173:2,11,12	7 139:10 168:11	194:9 195:7
232:10 239:17	175:5 177:24	168:13	196:6
300 231:15	178:7 203:7,12	7-31 183:10	a
232:10,10	203:15 204:8,12	184:3	ability 191:3
30th 170:9	204:20 236:8	70 203:14	238:7
31st 183:21	5-0 164:19	75 142:21	able 143:9
34 232:2	50 158:17 160:3	77 202:16	148:12 181:2
37 177:3	160:14,20	78 155:6,22	192:15 213:1
37929 138:8	231:12,18	172:20	abnormally
38103 136:22	52 145:12	7:23 136:7	155:10
138:23 238:21	523-8974	8	above 151:23
39-14-104	138:24	8 139:11 172:6,8	165:21 168:12
238:16	53 140:7,15	172:14 177:1	172:7 178:20
39005 191:19	143:12 144:2	212:19 213:2,6	180:10 189:10
4	176:2	223:17	193:17 197:8
4 145:1 149:24	5438 177:14	8-1 183:17	205:10,20
193:12 202:2,8	5450 164:14	184:5	215:15 229:16
202:9,10,11,11	569 151:8	800 138:7,12	233:11,17 238:6
202:14 203:13	58 197:1	865 138:8	239:6 241:7
227:23 235:6	5:28 236:24	8th 167:10	absolutely
4-5-2022 202:1	5th 197:18	9	157:12
203:14	202:15		acceptable
4375 155:2	6	9 139:12 167:6	157:3 167:19
166:11 172:21	6 139:9 165:20	178:15,21 203:3	195:11 203:21
44 186:4	165:22 166:20	9.65 165:5	203:21 204:1
	167:2 213:2,6	177:17	accompanying
			163:23 236:1
	ı	ral Calutions	1

Veritext Legal Solutions

[accountability - answer]

Page 244

		004	
accountability	220:5,5 233:3	affirmative	amounts 235:15
161:5,13 162:6	adams 136:21	191:20	235:18,18
accuracy 142:22	138:23 238:21	affordable	analyst 192:3
155:23 156:11	add 180:8	187:7	analytical 149:4
157:1 158:10,18	added 159:6	agencies 224:20	analytics 148:17
161:16 166:13	222:11	agency 238:15	149:6 150:24
167:13,18 177:2	additions 241:6	aggregates	anecdotal
177:6 189:5	address 145:2	150:20	149:14
239:9	147:5 171:7,20	aggregating	anecdotally
accurate 151:11	190:20 210:7	150:22	147:16 176:15
151:13 157:7	addressed 179:7	agree 175:9,10	annotated
173:24 238:7	addresses 153:5	177:3 192:19	238:16
accurately	205:2	ahead 151:21	announced
162:18	addressing	168:10 172:5	200:12 201:9
acknowledge	147:9 148:5	180:7 191:24	answer 140:13
241:3	216:19	192:1 194:23	142:5 143:2,14
acknowledgm	administration	197:6 205:7	145:5 147:11,12
239:12	156:20	215:13 228:3,4	148:7,15 149:11
acronym 187:2	administrative	aisle 178:4	152:16 154:7,8
action 147:4,8	179:9,13 236:20	al 239:4,4 240:1	155:12 156:3,14
148:3,4 149:9	administrator	240:1 241:1,1	157:5 158:1
190:19 238:9	170:16,18	alex 201:9	159:18 160:8
activity 142:6,7	advance 212:6	align 204:10	161:10 162:11
183:7	212:19 213:3,6	allotted 239:20	162:21 164:1
actual 188:15	217:21 223:18	allow 147:7	165:15 167:21
actually 140:10	225:6	200:5	169:23 170:1
162:1 168:19	advice 219:15	allows 189:3	175:18 176:13
169:4,10 170:5	advise 176:9	190:15	176:14 177:5
179:12 181:24	aedwards 138:9	alpha 136:21	178:2 184:15,23
183:22 209:7	affairs 179:4	138:22	192:21 195:13
230:4	affect 185:6	alternative	195:23 196:22
adam 138:6	186:4	136:10	198:4,24 199:17
168:21 173:15	affecting 218:1	amount 159:15	200:10 201:1
174:10 194:11	affects 186:18	160:22 235:11	202:20 203:24
205:14 219:7,20			209:16 210:11

Veritext Legal Solutions

[answer - bates] Page 245

		1	1
211:6,24 217:2	228:15	attached 152:1	average 156:6
217:16 218:7,9	appropriate	165:23 168:14	202:2,9,12
221:3 222:23	214:19 219:21	172:9 178:22	203:14
224:24 226:10	approval	180:12 189:12	aware 143:19
226:20 227:12	156:21	193:19 197:10	157:20 219:11
227:21 228:9,21	approximately	205:12 215:17	219:11
231:5 232:5	137:5	229:18 233:13	b
235:13	april 147:24	233:19 239:11	b 136:8 149:1
answered	197:18,24	attention 217:9	back 140:6
149:11	198:21 202:15	attorney 239:13	147:21 152:20
answers 148:12	area 147:13	audit 140:8	
apologize	166:17 188:3	141:1 142:2,22	153:18 159:8
232:20,24	228:24	144:3,21 158:3	173:8 183:14
apparent	areas 220:20	158:6,11,16	191:3 195:9
210:13	231:1	159:13 160:13	196:5 200:17
appear 189:2	arm 151:5	160:14 161:1,11	201:11 204:17
216:24 217:3	arno 166:14,22	175:14,21,24	218:15 219:3,5
226:23	asked 149:11	177:22 220:20	221:17 224:3
appeared	174:11	231:7 232:1	bag 208:14,16
179:12	asking 152:8	auditing 161:23	balanced
appears 153:23	174:3 206:1	audits 143:11	182:22
171:19 178:3	207:15 218:23	149:20 157:21	barcode 236:1
181:18 182:1	231:11	157:22 158:24	barriers 207:2
190:22 191:1	assess 147:7	159:1,10 160:3	based 154:8
204:22 205:19	148:12 190:16	160:4,11,19,22	161:11 176:24
208:24 209:1	200:6	161:15 162:8,19	183:8 190:14
216:8,19 225:20	assessed 153:24	231:3,13,23	192:9 213:18
225:22 226:6	assigned 190:12	authorization	221:7,8
235:1,7,9	assignments	221:10	basically 144:6
appended 241:7	228:19	available	153:7
applicable	associated	191:14 200:3	basis 163:5
239:8	231:8	201:3,6,8 239:6	164:6 212:11
apply 179:20	assortment	avenue 136:21	224:12
appreciate	187:19 211:15	138:23 238:21	bates 164:13
170:3 219:16	107.17 211.13	130.23 230.21	177:14 191:19
170.3 219.10			
		ral Solutions	I .

Veritext Legal Solutions

[beginning - cetera]

Page 246

beginning 137:4	blue 188:6	bunch 161:9	170:18 192:8,11
142:3 147:14	blurry 203:1,18	183:3	cares 225:10
158:23 193:8	board 238:12	business 148:17	carmen 136:4
204:18 210:13	body 221:17	149:6 150:24	carrier 176:21
behalf 136:4	bonnie 168:2,3	c	carrying 211:17
137:3	168:4	c 138:1 149:1	cartwright
behavior 163:11	bottom 177:15	238:1,1	216:5,6 224:6
behest 158:12	190:9 207:14	caleb 180:2,3	226:8
believe 145:12	box 213:9	181:17 182:24	case 136:7
146:5 168:19	233:22	183:6,24 185:4	216:24 217:21
172:6 202:8	boxes 171:13	206:11 207:15	238:10
203:9 204:11	213:5 214:12,17	200.11 207.13	cases 169:19
228:11	break 178:7	213:10,17 214:4	211:8 223:3
bessy 168:3	201:16 215:6,11	213.10,17 214.4	226:16
best 148:10	breakdown	214.7 217.8 218:3 221:21	categories 141:7
182:20 198:15	188:14 202:7,9	222:9,18	141:10,13
198:21 206:1	202:10	caleb's 182:16	category 188:18
221:19,24 222:6	breaks 159:14	209:1	causing 224:17
238:7	160:5	calendar 140:10	cc 153:10,11
better 167:14	brief 178:10	140:17 176:4	170:13
181:7	181:11 189:21	call 144:9,12,15	ccr 238:19
bi 199:19,19,23	215:8 236:13	153:11 155:22	center 208:15
200:2,21 201:2	bringing 213:18	158:19 159:5	212:20
big 141:13	214:22	187:4 206:15,16	certain 168:23
142:2 144:21	brought 209:2	209:2 212:4	212:11
175:14 180:19	212:4 217:9		certainly 155:14
229:11 230:3,5	218:4	218:5 222:7 called 143:24	164:5,5 176:6
bigger 180:15	brunswick		196:6,9 210:2
bit 150:15	138:5	187:11	219:10
153:19 166:7	bryson 138:6	canal 138:12	certify 238:6,8
170:22 215:12	bullet 183:13	candles 187:8	238:11,14
blaich 148:24	185:12,14	capped 145:24	cetera 194:15
blankets 187:8	220:16 221:12	captured 171:1 222:4	194:15 200:8
blip 183:1	222:11		201:17
		capturing	
		159:22 170:16	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[chain - continually]

Page 247

chain 185:4,9	167:15 177:9,14	communicated	198:2 201:9
185:12,13,15,18	checking 162:2	228:18	205:5 212:14
185:21	checks 162:4	communication	216:12 222:1
challenged	choice 171:13	228:17	227:2,6 231:19
154:4	choose 214:20	communicatio	concern 209:3
change 148:1	chose 141:5,7	143:4 151:4	212:5
185:20,21 187:4	chosen 142:12	216:13	concluded
188:12 200:4	chugging	company	236:23
240:4,7,10,13	181:16	136:21 138:22	conducted
240:16,19	civil 137:8	147:7 229:1	158:12
changed 187:8	clarifying 160:9	competency	conducting
224:1,1	clearly 155:16	137:12	158:16
changes 142:2	click 199:8	compilation	conference
174:15 183:22	closer 153:19	143:10 184:24	206:15,16 222:7
184:8,12 188:16	code 235:23	complement	confirm 140:14
189:4 195:9,19	238:16	163:3	147:22 179:23
198:17 201:20	coleman 138:6	complete 241:8	confused 190:13
210:7 211:15	collier 138:16	completed	consent 137:4
212:10 213:8	color 186:20	171:24 197:2	consider 155:9
222:5,19 223:24	column 188:6	222:6 239:17	155:24
224:10,11	columns 230:14	completely	consistent
226:16 239:10	230:20	226:17	199:23 231:13
241:6	come 154:10	completes	consistently
charge 157:17	166:11 176:8	224:14	162:7
164:23 176:21	199:14 213:12	compliance	consumables
177:17 190:11	234:4	145:11 147:13	187:2
charged 232:1	comes 170:23	147:19,22	consumer 179:4
chart 182:10	179:3 208:14	152:17,21 153:9	211:21
194:13	coming 166:6	154:9 155:20,21	content 174:9
charts 149:17	180:18 181:4	156:9 158:21	180:22
check 154:14	209:18 229:20	159:3 161:1,22	context 155:13
158:17 159:4	233:8 234:18	162:4 180:5	199:1 236:1
191:8 201:13	communicate	181:19,24	continually
checked 141:3	153:8	183:17 184:6,18	146:2
154:20 155:7		193:5,11 197:22	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[continue - decisions]

Page 248

continue 198:17 200:21 211:1,21	177:9,10,11 178:16 183:18	couple 153:1 160:12 169:13	150:21,22 151:5 159:13,22 161:2
continued	183:19 184:13	182:15	161:9 230:10,12
178:11 181:12 189:22 215:9 236:14 conversation 149:15 cooler 149:14 coolers 142:13 copied 152:23 153:20 154:12	185:12,22 186:1 186:6 188:13 193:2,14 194:7 195:11,21 196:23 198:13 198:14 199:24 200:1,8,11,18 201:18 202:4,5 202:7,13,18,24	court 136:1 138:21,22 230:2 236:19 238:5,12 238:12,15 covered 160:13 covid 209:18 create 187:6 created 143:18 creation 188:21	234:17 database 170:17 170:19 date 150:8 151:15 173:18 179:8 200:19 220:23 228:1,13 230:17,21 238:13,20
182:5 205:3 copies 239:14 copy 176:18,20 205:4,15 221:10 core 141:18 182:11 185:2,19	203:17,19,22 208:2,3 210:23 211:4 213:15,24 219:9 220:19 222:17,20,21 223:7 224:22	curious 161:13 current 192:12 currently 190:4 229:5 customer 207:11	240:24 241:12 dated 197:18 206:11 217:11 dates 145:9 168:22 170:4 182:2
187:20 193:1 194:5 195:18 197:17 206:19 209:9,12 218:8 218:12,13 221:5	225:20,24 226:8 234:9,9 241:8 corrections 241:6 correctly 162:18	customers 187:7 211:9 cv 136:7 cynthia 166:14 166:22	day 137:2 164:17 165:4 177:16 183:21 215:6 241:15 days 158:18,20
221:13 222:12 222:13 223:9,19 223:19,22 224:1 224:2 corporation	183:11 cost 209:23 210:21 211:18 counsel 137:4 236:8 238:9	d 136:8 139:1 dana 138:22 238:5,19	161:20,21 239:17 deal 193:22 december 136:16 137:2
136:8 238:20 239:4 240:1 241:1 correct 140:11 142:3,8 153:14 157:23 164:24 171:22 172:1	239:14 count 151:7 164:17 188:10 counting 142:19 county 152:13 170:11 179:3 238:3	daniel 148:24 149:5 172:3 dann 138:4 dark 201:10 data 139:8 142:20 143:10 143:15,17,17 148:3 149:18	145:23 167:10 191:13 195:10 239:3 decision 148:17 186:14 decisions 186:15

Veritext Legal Solutions

[declare - dollar]

Page 249

1 1 041 4		T• 4• 4•	101 22 102 7 12
declare 241:4	developed	distinction	181:23 182:7,13
decor 187:7	146:11	223:8	182:14 189:1,11
dedicated	different 153:1	distribute	191:2 193:18
193:13	160:12 167:5	154:10	197:9 205:11
deemed 241:6	169:16 182:2	district 136:1,1	215:16 218:16
defendant 137:3	186:18,20,21	158:15 160:13	218:16 229:17
138:10	187:12,18 192:6	161:8,17,22	233:12,18
defendants	192:7,11 197:20	162:1,7,14,17	234:14,17 235:9
136:11	217:23,24	162:22 163:6,9	documentation
delayed 166:7	228:24	163:15 191:8	153:22
delete 233:24	direct 139:3	199:9 205:3,6	documents
delight 206:20	140:4	209:2 213:19	152:10,12,18,22
demonstrated	directions	216:9 225:19,24	152:24 153:14
177:22	171:15	districts 163:3	169:17 174:24
department	directly 179:7	225:17 226:7	doing 146:13
150:21 153:7	director 143:4	division 190:10	162:3,4 180:20
156:15,16 179:3	154:16 162:23	192:16,19 194:5	216:22
228:23	163:2,7,8,10	194:10,13,14,16	dolgen 136:8,9
deponent 237:1	190:5	194:18,20,23	dolgencorp
239:13 241:3	directors 190:7	195:8 197:2	136:9
deposing 239:13	190:16	199:8 201:17	dollar 136:8
deposition	disagree 174:11	202:1,16,16	147:6 154:3
136:13 137:1,6	174:24 198:20	203:6,11,15	157:3,20 158:7
153:17 219:13	226:14	204:7,8,11,12	158:12 159:13
219:16 236:23	discovered	204:16,20	159:22 160:18
described	217:5	dm 212:4 218:5	166:15 167:19
160:14 184:11	discrepancy	222:10	168:6 171:6
226:5	178:5	dms 164:7	173:18 177:21
describes 214:7	discussed	document 143:9	187:5 193:9
description	175:15	150:2,17,19	194:6 195:11
182:12	discussing	151:16,17,19,24	203:22 206:18
details 199:8,8,9	144:22 145:3	152:9 165:22	207:21 208:22
199:9,10,10	disposed 137:14	168:13 172:8	210:5 211:1
201:12,18	disruption	175:11 178:21	212:21 224:18
	224:19	180:11,15	231:14 239:4

Veritext Legal Solutions

[dollar - esq] Page 250

240:1 241:1	212:3 214:5	174:14,23 175:2	161:4 184:16
dollargeneral	216:4,9 217:11	175:22 176:23	effectiveness
171:5	221:16,17	177:7 178:6,12	147:8
driveline 207:16	222:16 224:6	178:17,24 180:7	efficient 215:1
207:19,20,23	225:23 226:24	180:14,24 181:6	effort 143:19
208:19,23	234:19 238:1,1	181:14 184:19	182:19
212:12 213:12	240:3,3,3	185:7 189:8,14	efforts 143:20
216:21,22 217:6	earlier 141:23	190:1,24 191:17	either 150:23
221:9 223:2	151:1 157:22	192:23 193:15	161:10 204:19
224:13 226:14	162:6 169:13	193:21 194:2,12	236:4,18
227:10,14	170:22 175:15	195:4,16 196:7	element 196:9
228:17,18 229:2	177:23,23	196:24 197:6,14	employed 168:6
229:4	190:15 206:17	199:4,21 200:20	employee
due 209:23	214:10	201:4,14 202:22	166:15 208:23
duly 140:2	early 146:13,14	204:3 205:7,17	238:9
238:11	146:20 190:20	206:3,9 208:9	employees
duplicate	200:5 209:8	210:17 212:2	158:8
139:21 233:10	210:3 227:19	215:5,10,19	ends 150:2
dvpa 204:16	easier 169:8	216:3 217:7	164:13
e	edwards 138:6	218:2,14,22	engaged 160:18
e 138:1,1 139:1	139:3 140:5,19	219:2,10,18,24	entered 171:10
139:10,13,14,15	142:17 143:7,22	220:3,8,11	entire 142:11
139:16,17,19	145:15 147:20	222:24 223:5	entity 158:14
168:23 169:11	148:9,21 149:16	225:3 226:4,12	environment
169:13,16,18,19	151:21 152:3,7	227:3,17 228:2	213:4
170:9,23 171:4	152:19 154:18	228:14,22	equipment
171:7,13,20,23	155:18 156:8,24	229:10,21 230:7	196:11
171:7,13,20,23	157:8 158:9	231:10 232:11	erie 235:5,6
182:8 183:6	160:1,15 162:15	232:17,23 233:6	errata 239:11
189:2 190:2	162:24 163:18	233:9,15,21	239:13,17
191:21 193:3	164:11 165:18	234:1,8 235:14	error 157:18
197:15,21 198:2	166:1 168:1,18	236:6,12,15	230:19 232:2,3
198:5 204:18,22	169:3,14 170:2	effect 214:3	esq 138:3,6,11
205:5,16,24	170:7 172:4,12	effective 148:5	239:1
206:10 209:1	173:20 174:2,6	148:13 149:8	
	I .	I .	1

Veritext Legal Solutions

[essentially - fined]

Page 251

essentially	execution	234:11	familiar 152:10
212:21	197:17	exhibits 215:12	182:7,8 192:9
essex 170:11	executioners	exist 223:10,13	209:10 231:22
establish 188:7	208:12	expected 230:18	234:15,19
et 194:15,15	exhibit 139:5,8	experience	fashion 190:18
200:8 201:17	139:8,9,10,11	176:20 207:11	195:9
239:4,4 240:1,1	139:12,13,14,15	222:10	february 161:5
241:1,1	139:16,17,18,18	experienced	179:2 196:17
event 144:15,16	139:19,20,21,21	171:12 211:8,17	206:11 207:13
144:20,21,23	139:22 149:24	experiencing	210:2 213:7
evidenced	151:22,22,24	145:23 146:1	217:10 218:4
238:13	153:16 164:13	experts 208:5	federal 137:7
exact 145:8,9	165:19,20,22	expiration	224:20
169:12 227:22	167:2 168:11,11	238:13,20	fee 231:15
228:1,13	168:13,20 172:5	explain 153:13	feel 169:6 219:1
exactly 144:5	172:6,8,14,20	212:16	232:17
examination	173:2,11,12	exposure	fell 195:14
139:2 140:4	175:5,6 177:1	235:11,15	field 154:11
examined 140:2	177:24 178:13	extra 183:3	155:16 156:18
example 142:21	178:15,21 180:8	193:12	figure 163:19
145:8,10 146:4	180:11,20 189:9	\mathbf{f}	168:24 169:9
149:20 157:15	189:11 190:22	f 238:1	192:16,17 230:2
161:13 162:5	191:1 193:16,16	fact 194:4 195:7	233:22
164:17 196:16	193:18 196:14	factories 211:12	figured 169:20
221:6 232:3	197:7,7,9 205:8	fail 161:11	233:23
examples	205:9,11,21	failed 149:20	file 166:5
169:10 224:22	215:14,14,16	167:5,23 177:22	files 223:16
225:1,14,16	216:21 217:10	fails 162:7	financially
excerpt 205:16	219:3,5,19	239:19	238:10
exchange	220:4,12,14,15	failure 195:17	findings 231:20
222:16 226:24	221:17 224:3	196:19	fine 154:13,15
execute 184:17	229:11,17	fair 165:13	156:20 171:21
208:19	232:18 233:3,4	189:5,7 217:13	228:4 235:10,15
executing	233:10,10,12,16	fairly 188:22	fined 149:21
198:15,21	233:18,22		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[fines - getting]

Page 252

fines 150:9	214:10,16,20	222:22 223:4	front 140:17
151:16 154:4,9	215:3 227:15,18	224:23 226:2,9	176:4 186:21
170:10 224:19	228:5	226:19 227:11	fulfill 213:1
232:12	forced 145:20	227:20 228:8,20	full 175:21,23
firm 138:4,21	forecast 181:19	231:4 232:4	176:3 205:15
first 140:2,10	183:8,16,18	231:4 232:4	fullment 208:15
142:12 150:16	forecasting	formal 163:5	function 153:3
168:19 173:9,10	189:3	formalities	further 237:1
175:6 177:13	forecasts 182:1	137:9	238:8,11,14
183:16 184:9	foregoing 241:5	format 149:18	
185:11 198:7	forgot 166:7	199:18	g
201:8 206:21	form 142:4	formats 187:8	gay 138:7
209:4,8	143:1,13 145:4	formatting	general 136:8
fiscal 140:7,15	147:10 148:6,14	234:20	147:6 154:3
140:17,22	149:10 152:15	forms 137:9	156:10 157:3,20
143:12 145:11	154:6 155:11	forth 144:1	158:7,13 159:13
145:12 147:2	156:2,13 157:4	177:13 199:6	159:22 160:18
176:2,4 210:1	157:24 159:17	forward 145:14	166:16 167:19
fixed 169:23	160:7 162:10,20	150:1 152:22	168:6 171:6
227:10	163:16,24	173:4 179:22	173:18 187:5
fl 239:15	165:14 167:20	forwarding	193:9 194:6
flat 231:15	175:16 176:12	171:18	195:11 203:22
flip 150:1	177:4 178:1	found 155:5	206:18 207:22
177:12 191:18	184:14,22 189:6	214:11	208:22 210:6
florida 150:12	190:23 191:4	four 147:4,8	211:1 212:21
follow 140:7	192:20 194:9	148:4 149:8	224:18 231:14
171:14	195:12,22	153:2	239:4 240:1
following 142:2	196:21 198:3,23	fourth 177:15	241:1
196:18 238:13	199:16 200:9,24	frame 158:4	generally 150:21 152:21
follows 140:2	201:7 202:19	190:20 209:7	182:2
178:11 181:12	203:23 208:8	free 169:6 219:1	
189:22 215:9	209:15 210:10	freezers 142:14	generated 172:19 182:13
236:14	211:5,23 217:1	frequency	182:15
force 146:4,10	217:14 218:6	161:18,19	getting 161:8
146:10,13	219:14 221:2		162:7 179:15,17
			102.1 117.13,11

Veritext Legal Solutions

[getting - hope]

Page 253

			1	
224:9,11 232:24	181:9 183:3,7	graphs 149:17	heard 147:16	
233:1	185:1,6 186:16	gray 188:6	166:22 174:6	
give 148:22	196:4,4,5	green 185:16	213:18	
164:19 174:18	204:17 205:23	186:4,8,19	hearing 137:14	
219:15 229:14	210:22 212:16	grossman 138:7	179:9	
236:7	212:17,19 213:2	group 147:17	hearings 179:13	
given 241:9	214:14 219:6,20	151:5 158:6,7	heart 230:22	
gives 202:6,8	220:6 229:10,24	183:20 188:20	help 181:23	
giving 205:23	230:8	188:23 217:4	helpful 168:22	
glean 222:9	good 171:16	218:11	helps 182:13	
go 145:13	178:7,12 181:15	guess 236:18	henry 155:2	
147:21 151:21	215:7 233:7	guys 178:8	166:12 172:1,22	
153:18,23	236:9,10,11	186:7 207:23	hereto 152:2	
157:14 164:16	gosh 141:14	h	165:24 168:15	
165:19 168:10	gotten 179:18	h 149:1 240:3	172:10 178:23	
172:4 173:8	government	half 207:8	180:13 189:13	
180:7 184:10	149:20 160:19	hallway 149:14	193:20 197:11	
186:16 187:20	224:20	handing 207:16	205:13 215:18	
189:8 191:24	governmental	hanging 226:15	229:19 233:14	
192:1 194:23	158:13 160:22	hangs 224:14	233:20 241:7	
196:4 197:6	231:23 232:1	happened	hey 191:8	
198:7 199:5	grainy 150:15	223:15	hhc 220:22	
203:6 205:7	gram 142:11,15		high 155:10	
208:19 214:21	186:3 188:21,21	happening 210:21 222:20	222:15	
218:15,24 219:3	208:6,14 217:19	225:11,13,17	history 221:8	
219:5,7,19	218:17 220:19	225:11,13,17	hit 183:22 184:9	
220:4 221:16	220:21 222:2	hard 204:9	185:20,21	
223:17 224:3	grammar		hitting 184:1	
228:3,4 232:12	225:12	header 185:13	hold 165:20	
goal 157:12	grams 208:4,18	232:14 234:5 headers 151:18	218:19,19	
goes 185:15	212:22 214:8,23		honestly 191:15	
212:9	216:22 218:1,5	230:13	hooper 171:4	
going 142:12,14	218:10 221:1,15	heading 187:24	172:3	
162:1 163:4	222:3,11,14	188:1,7,9	hope 215:5	
169:4,21 180:8		hear 176:15		
,				
Veritext Legal Solutions				

[hours - issue] Page 254

harry 102.12	:	ا مانینا میراد	:mamaatawa
hours 193:12	improvement	individuals	inspectors
hr 168:7	147:17	148:11 216:13	176:8
huh 191:20	inappropriate	inflation 209:23	installed 212:12
hundred 155:6	220:7	210:21	instance 157:18
157:6,11 164:17	include 141:18	info 222:7	insure 141:9
167:15 172:21	204:19 222:13	information	179:22 182:21
hung 224:12	223:2	170:13 182:24	200:17 220:18
hungry 233:1	included 141:12	189:2 204:13	221:24 222:4
hunt 187:6	144:20 158:4	infusion 211:15	insuring 171:1
206:20 207:10	159:3 198:1,5	initial 200:13,15	intake 153:7
husband 204:14	includes 158:17	initially 201:19	intention 233:5
hwy 138:4	including 137:9	201:23	interested
i	incorporated	initiative 187:1	206:23 238:10
idea 141:11	222:6	187:3,6 217:18	internal 157:21
168:5 230:10	incorrect	218:9 221:13	158:5,6,7 159:9
identifying	168:24 214:13	222:12	159:13 160:3,4
222:19	increase 165:11	inputs 200:18	160:11,24 186:7
ii 136:18 239:5	209:9,12,13	inspected	231:2,7,13,20
240:2,24 241:2	210:8,8 211:3	230:18 231:12	internally
240.2,24 241.2	increased	inspection	160:19 161:7
imagine 148:19	222:20	139:9,11 154:24	interpret 151:19
184:3 194:7	increases 146:1	159:8 167:5,9	introduce 180:9
	209:19,23	171:7,8,11,24	introduced
immateriality	210:19,20	172:14,19 173:1	166:2 228:6
137:12	211:18,19	173:17 174:12	involve 218:5,10
immediately	223:22	174:17,18,20	221:5
176:9	index 139:2,5	175:6 176:24	involved 218:8
impact 213:8	indicate 186:23	230:17 235:21	involves 172:18
implementation	indicates 188:2	inspections	irrelevancy
200:4	202:15 217:11	152:14 171:5,6	137:12
implemented	individual	171:20,21 175:4	irrelevant 174:3
147:5 190:19	148:10	176:9	isle 177:16
228:6	individually	inspector	issue 213:4,5
important	136:9	154:21 155:5	214:7 216:22
182:23 223:8	130.7	174:19 176:20	226:14 227:9,13
		171.17170.20	220.11.227.7,13

Veritext Legal Solutions

[issues - larger]

Page 255

issues 145:2	joseph 136:4	179:18,20	knows 191:10
196:2,2,2,12	239:4 240:1	180:16 181:4	knoxville 138:8
200:14	241:1	182:21,23	l
item 141:3,6	july 183:21	183:10 186:12	l 138:3 149:1
160:4 178:4	jumped 218:23	187:24 188:4,8	label 142:2,9
items 147:5,8	k	188:22 190:3	145:20 146:10
148:4 154:20	kansas 221:20	191:8,9,15	188:14 195:9
155:6 158:17	221:24	193:22,24	196:5 197:17
160:14,20	keep 164:2,3	196:10 199:15	labeled 150:8
167:15 177:9,14	211:10 219:14	201:5,10 204:15	labels 142:11,16
188:23 190:19	kelly 138:16	205:24 206:4,4	142:19 143:16
220:18 230:18	key 176:21	206:6,6,23	144:1,7 182:12
231:12	kind 160:11	207:1,5 208:13	185:2,20 188:1
j	169:14,20	210:3 211:7,10	188:24 190:17
james 171:4,18	186:13 205:17	212:18 213:17	191:10 192:18
172:3	235:9	214:16,18 216:5	193:1,6 194:6
january 140:18	know 141:14	217:20,23	195:18 196:19
140:21,23	142:14,21 143:3	219:15,15	200:6 202:2,17
144:23 145:16	143:6 144:14,16	221:11 223:17	209:9,12 210:1
145:22 146:6,9	144:17 145:10	226:13,17,23	212:5,23 218:17
147:2 171:24	145:13 146:2	227:5,7,8 229:2	220:19,22 222:2
172:15,15 173:4	148:12,16 149:8	229:22,24 230:8	223:14,20
173:14,19	149:14 150:5,17	230:14,16,21,22	labor 179:4
174:17,20 175:8	150:18,20 152:4	231:2,6,20	lack 196:10
175:12,24 177:1	153:7 154:3,5,9	232:6,7,8,16	laid 148:4
javier 138:3	154:13 155:13	233:4 234:2,22	lake 167:7
jessica 190:2,3,4	155:14,15	235:22,24 236:2	land 213:7
191:15 196:18	156:21 158:6	236:19	language
197:16 198:8	159:5 163:3,4	knowing 151:12	186:13
204:18,21,23	164:4,7,9	knowledge	laptop 181:7
job 147:23	166:15 168:3,4	143:5 191:13	large 141:7,10
162:9	168:8 169:11,12	226:22 227:1	166:5 176:19
johanna 227:6	170:3,4,21	228:12 238:7	209:24
jointly 136:9	174:2 176:5,7	known 191:16	larger 156:6
J = 2 2 1 2	176:11,16,17,18		9
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[late - make] Page 256

146644	1 100.00	1 4 455 45	
late 146:6,14	level 182:20	location 157:17	m
200:7,7 202:3	222:15	long 219:4,8	ma'am 175:3
202:24 203:16	licensed 238:5	longer 159:4	178:18
232:23,24	238:12,12	look 141:15	madam 236:19
launch 200:12	licensing 179:4	153:18 154:21	made 148:1
200:12,19 223:9	life 196:1	155:15 156:5	165:11 172:20
launched	light 206:14,15	157:15 164:12	184:12 189:17
146:15 200:16	207:3,4,7	164:16 173:9,12	241:5
201:21 206:21	212:20,24 213:5	185:2 191:12	mail 139:10,13
law 138:4	lights 214:18	230:12	139:14,15,16,17
219:11,12	likely 165:10	looked 216:20	139:19 169:13
layout 187:4	limit 160:17	looking 156:4	169:18,19 170:9
206:18 208:6	line 153:10,12	158:5 159:21	170:23 171:4,7
layouts 206:24	240:4,7,10,13	171:19 175:5	171:13,20,23
lays 149:18	240:16,19	183:5 185:11	171:13,20,23
160:20	lining 156:23	206:10 207:14	182:8 183:6
lcr 238:5,13,19	list 141:10,13	208:24 209:4	190:2 191:21
leader 204:21	142:23 150:11	216:4 221:7,7,9	193:3 197:15,21
leading 202:14	153:4 177:15	231:7 234:7	198:5 204:18,22
203:14	182:6 214:17	looks 159:14	205:5,16,24
leads 160:11	225:1 236:7	166:4 168:16	205:3,10,24
leave 176:18	listing 185:16	170:8 191:9,21	212:3 214:5
left 176:20	lists 192:2	192:14 197:1	216:4,9 217:11
188:5 199:7	224:21	199:5,7,18	221:16,17
legal 153:6,6	little 153:19	201:15 207:13	222:16 224:6
154:10,10,12,12	169:8 170:22	228:5 233:3	225:23 226:24
156:18,19	181:9 190:13	235:3	234:19
159:23 171:18	203:1 215:12	lost 147:21,22	mails 168:23
179:22,23	live 146:5	lot 169:17 211:7	
219:15 239:23	llc 136:8	211:13 216:12	169:11,16 189:2
letter 173:18	load 197:13	231:22	198:2 main 155:2
221:10	229:15	low 177:3,6	
letters 179:16	located 155:1	lumby 180:2,3	166:11 172:21
179:18	186:8	206:11	make 165:12
			169:7 172:5
			173:24 198:16

[make - misunderstand]

Page 257

210:6 219:13	180:7 189:9	means 170:21	merchants
231:16	193:15 197:6	182:11 185:17	206:22
makes 184:5	205:8,21 216:5	187:13 188:10	merino 138:3
186:14 231:16	216:5 217:22	235:21,22	message 181:17
making 162:17	218:1 224:6	measures	messed 215:12
202:11	225:19 229:10	144:24 145:1,6	met 161:3
manage 182:20	233:22	148:13 149:9	167:24
managed 229:4	marked 151:24	152:11 154:21	method 154:14
management	165:22 168:13	167:4 235:21	methodology
188:19,20	172:8 173:1	medicine 185:3	192:12 232:14
manager 152:20	175:4 177:24	185:24	metro 186:11
160:13 161:14	178:13,21	meet 161:4	mia 136:15
161:14,18,23	180:11 189:11	195:15	137:1 139:3
162:1,7,13,14	193:18 197:9	meeting 161:6	140:1 239:5
162:17,23 163:9	205:11 215:16	181:9	240:2,24 241:2
163:14,15,20,23	229:17 233:12	memphis	241:4,12
166:11 168:2	233:18 234:10	136:22 138:23	microsoft
176:21 180:3	234:11	238:21	199:19
205:3 209:2	market 186:11	men's 164:18	middle 218:23
213:19 225:20	186:12,12	177:16	midway 164:16
managers	materials 223:1	mentioned	milberg 138:6
158:15 161:8	matters 137:11	151:1,23 162:6	milberg.com
163:6 176:10	maximize 208:6	165:21 168:12	138:9
191:8 200:5	mccue 170:9,14	172:7 178:20	miller 229:8,9
205:6 216:9	170:15	180:10 189:10	minute 180:21
225:24	mcguirewood	193:17 197:8	minutes 178:7
manual 214:21	239:2	205:10 215:15	236:8
map 150:7	mcquire 138:12	227:14 229:16	mispriced
186:7	mean 147:12	233:11,17	142:24 160:6,21
mapped 186:10	158:6,10 160:16	merchandising	missing 225:15
mar 139:7	163:12 170:20	207:21 208:2,11	misstates
march 146:15	174:11 183:13	208:18 229:1,5	140:12 164:1
170:9	194:12 205:22	merchant	175:17 217:15
mark 151:21	208:10 218:9	206:22	misunderstand
168:10 172:5			190:21

Veritext Legal Solutions

[mixed - objection]

Page 258

mixed 194:23	necessarily	north 138:5	209:22,24
moment 152:6	152:8 186:10	notary 241:13	210:18 214:13
183:9	230:20,22	241:19	224:21 230:18
monday 184:4	necessary 241:6	note 173:16,22	231:12,19
monica 191:22	need 164:5	173:23 239:10	235:24 238:13
191:23 192:10	233:1 236:21	noted 173:20	numbers 164:10
192:14	needed 210:6	185:9 206:7	210:15 230:17
monica's 193:3	neither 203:21	241:7	230:22
months 169:13	204:1	notes 206:15	numerous
169:15,19 173:7	net 220:20,22	222:7	224:17
174:13,16 175:8	never 160:2	notice 137:3	0
177:23,23	210:16	139:12 172:13	o 142:11,15
morning 184:9	new 136:1,8	174:19 179:2,8	166:14 186:3
multivitamins	151:7 152:11	234:24	188:21,21 208:4
165:5	155:2 167:7	noticed 168:23	208:6,14,18
n	170:11 172:1,22	169:3	212:22 214:8,23
	190:5,7 192:8	noting 196:19	212:22 214:8,23
	192:15,24 194:4	nov 234:6,23	
166:14	195:7 198:12	235:20	218:1,5,10,17 220:19,21 221:1
name 144:16,20	199:23 202:15	november 155:1	220:19,21 221:1
148:22,24 166:14,22 188:5	203:7,9 211:14	159:9 166:13	221:13 222:2,3
229:7,8 238:13	212:11,14 213:4	173:2,11,13,16	o'clock 183:10
nationwide	220:19 223:10	174:16,20 175:7	
213:22 214:1	235:2	number 139:18	object 190:23 191:4 205:23
	news 178:12	141:17 142:19	
nci 185:16	nj 138:5	143:16 144:7	226:2
186:17,21,23	nomenclature	145:24 149:3	objection
187:1,11,13,13	188:8	151:13 155:15	140:12 142:4
187:15 188:6,6	non 187:2	155:20,23 156:4	143:1,13 145:4
206:14,15,17	206:19 218:8,12	156:6 171:13	147:10 148:6,14
207:6 212:20,24	218:13 221:5,13	180:21 181:24	149:10,11
213:5 214:18	222:12,13 223:9	182:1,6 185:5	152:15 154:6
221:5,12	223:19,22 224:2	185:17 188:11	155:11 156:2,13
near 176:6	normal 156:1	192:17 194:13	157:4,24 159:17
nearly 177:22		203:8,12 207:6	160:7 162:10,20
			163:16,24
	Varitant I as		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[objection - overseeing]

Page 259

165:14 167:20	214:12	195:3 196:8,13	operations
174:8 175:16,17	okay 140:24,24	197:13 198:7	148:18,24
176:12 177:4	141:11,20,23	199:22 200:2	150:23 151:2,4
178:1 184:14,22	143:23 144:9,21	201:5,15,22	154:16 182:19
189:6 192:20	145:19 146:19	202:14 203:6,13	192:2 216:12
194:8,8,9	146:23 148:2	205:7 206:8,10	opposed 158:13
195:12,22	149:2,7,17	207:9,13 208:21	ops 143:4 149:4
196:21 198:3,23	150:4,6,7,16,20	208:24 209:6,20	order 197:20
199:16 200:9,24	151:9,20 152:6	213:16,21 214:2	212:21,24
201:7 202:19	152:20 153:13	215:2 216:1,1,4	orders 213:1
203:23 206:6	153:23 154:3	216:8,11 218:3	originated
208:8 209:15	155:5,9 157:9	218:15 219:8	191:21
210:10 211:5,23	158:22 159:8,12	221:14 223:12	outcome 181:9
217:1,14,15	160:2,20 161:12	224:3,5,21	238:10
218:6 221:2	161:24 162:16	225:15,19	outlier 183:2
222:22 223:4	163:1,12,20	226:13 227:18	outside 155:24
224:23 226:9,19	164:12,16 165:4	228:15 229:9,13	158:13 160:19
227:11,20 228:8	165:9,19 166:4	229:23 230:2	166:17
228:20 231:4	166:9,19 167:1	232:22,24 234:2	overall 210:8
232:4 235:12	168:9,16 169:22	234:4,5,10,13	overcharge
objections	170:14,18	235:1,8 236:4,6	159:16 165:2
137:11 219:14	171:23 172:4,11	236:12	230:19
observing	173:20 174:22	old 191:6	overcharged
163:10	175:1,12 176:7	216:23 223:3	177:21
occur 140:14,15	177:8,12 178:19	224:16	overcharges
196:12	179:15 180:1	older 179:2	147:9 148:5
occurred 140:10	181:1,3,13,15	olive 185:16,16	155:6 167:14
169:9 173:17	181:17,18 182:4	186:17 187:11	172:21 177:8
174:12 175:7,8	184:2,5,20,24	187:13,14,15	190:21
222:5	185:19 186:17	once 158:20	overcharging
odd 232:9	187:10,17	170:1 214:10	145:2 147:5
234:20	188:10 189:1,23	ongoing 217:12	209:13
office 222:2	190:6,13 192:14	open 181:2	overdue 170:10
oh 171:16	192:24 193:5,11	operate 211:2	overseeing
182:12 194:18	194:12,19,19,22	211:21	161:15

Veritext Legal Solutions

[oversees - point]

Page 260

oversees 188:20	participation	people 182:6	piloting 198:6
oversight 229:4	144:6	211:11	place 143:12
own 187:15	particular	percent 142:21	144:22 145:1,7
owned 159:24	191:11,11	151:14 155:22	154:24 157:23
р	194:10 199:18	157:2,7,12	159:2,9,10
p 138:1,1	202:1 206:18	163:17 166:12	167:10 171:22
p.m. 137:5	213:22	167:14,18,22	174:15 175:14
236:24	particularly	177:3 202:17,23	177:1 235:10
page 157:14	166:5	203:3,15,16,16	placed 223:2
164:13 168:20	parties 153:8	232:2,3,10,10	placing 224:18
177:13 191:18	238:9	percentage	plaintiff 138:2
198:8 199:5,22	partner 196:3	149:19 163:13	plaintiffs 136:6
207:15 225:5,9	partnered	196:11 200:6	plan 142:11,15
231:15 235:5,6	214:18	performed	186:3 188:21,21
240:4,7,10,13	parts 196:2	208:22,23	208:4,6,14,18
240:16,19	party 207:20	performing	212:22 214:8,23
pages 150:1	208:1 229:3	142:7 199:2	216:22 217:19
234:5	pass 161:11	performs	218:1,5,10,17
paragraph	211:20	207:21	220:19,21 221:1
209:5 224:8	passed 211:18	period 159:4	221:15 222:2,3
parenthetical	passing 209:23	permanent	222:11,14
185:5	past 224:15	145:13 146:11	please 180:16
part 141:8	paste 221:10	person 148:22	219:5,13 220:1
142:6 143:3,21	paths 160:12	148:23 149:5	220:4,8,12,17
144:17 146:11	pay 208:19	163:23 176:16	224:8 225:5
147:2,17,22	payment 154:14	176:17 182:17	plenty 229:14
158:18,20 161:1	154:17	person's 166:14	pllc 138:7
162:3 163:6	pays 154:4	personal 226:22	pmh 136:7
164:9 179:21	pc 138:4 220:20	228:12	pod 185:3
180:5 184:18	220:22	phases 200:15	pog 185:23
187:14 205:24	peers 225:18,23	phillips 138:7	186:2 224:14
214:5 217:19	penalty 153:24	physical 207:2	pogs 217:5,22
participated	230:19 231:8,15	picked 171:21	point 143:9
141:1,2	232:2	piece 196:1	146:20 158:2
111.1,2			165:4,7,8
	***	val Solutions	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[point - produced]

Page 261

183:22 185:12	present 138:15	158:10,17	prior 140:13
191:7 220:16	presented	161:16 182:11	149:22 156:4
221:12 222:11	137:13	183:7 187:12,21	158:3 164:1
226:18	presents 214:5	209:3 210:7	175:17 184:1
points 183:13	president 229:5	212:5 216:23	207:16 213:3
185:14	press 223:17	220:18 222:4	217:15,17
policies 157:3	presume 162:9	223:21 235:2	privy 148:2,8
210:7	165:6 213:22	print 142:9,10	probably
policy 157:13	pretty 177:2	142:11,15,15	171:12 175:20
195:15 204:2	previous 216:21	145:20 146:4,10	195:1 198:15
poor 225:12	217:9	146:13 193:1	223:21
pops 183:2	price 142:8,8	195:18 196:19	problem 217:12
port 155:2	145:24 157:17	203:17 212:22	222:18 226:5
166:12 172:1,22	157:17 159:3	212:22,23	problems
pos 224:13	164:23,23	214:10,16,20	216:20
possible 141:6	165:10 177:16	220:19 222:1	procedure
157:11	177:17,18 178:5	228:5	137:8
potentially	183:22 184:8,12	printed 142:19	proceeding
141:21 168:8	185:20 188:11	143:17 144:1,8	238:6
power 199:19	188:15 189:4	190:17 191:10	proceedings
199:19,23 200:2	195:19 197:17	192:18 193:6	178:11 181:12
200:21,23 201:2	198:17 209:19	194:5,14 195:8	189:22 215:9
practice 221:19	210:18,20,20	196:5 200:6,7,7	236:14
221:24 222:7	211:18 212:14	200:8 202:3,4	process 144:18
pre 213:12	213:7,13 222:19	202:17,23 203:4	144:18 153:8
preceded	223:20,24	203:15,16 212:6	154:13,13
169:20	224:10,11,17	213:12 217:21	162:18 166:21
predominantly	226:16	220:22 224:15	170:22 179:21
208:4	prices 162:2	printer 153:4	184:10
preparation	184:12 210:8	196:2 222:2	processes
153:17	211:3 214:14	printing 197:3	190:19
prepared	223:2 224:1,2	197:17 199:10	processing
150:18 213:6	226:15	214:8,23	180:18
prepares 150:17	pricing 140:8	prints 215:4	produced
	150:8 151:16	227:16,18	169:17 206:4,5

Veritext Legal Solutions

[product - record]

Page 262

			1 1 2 3 3 3
product 177:21	providing 179:8	quickly 233:8	realized 210:6
188:15 206:20	182:24	quite 159:2	really 144:13,13
218:13 221:5	provisions	180:17 189:17	145:23 146:3,24
223:23 235:23	137:7	r	170:3 174:2
238:15	public 241:19	r 138:1 166:14	184:24 188:19
production	pulled 143:16	198:9 204:18	214:4
211:11	143:18 200:16	238:1 240:3,3	reason 182:14
products 141:12	pulling 205:24	radar 182:17,18	204:13 214:19
141:18,21	pulls 152:4	183:1	239:11 240:6,9
142:23 157:16	purpose 171:2	random 154:19	240:12,15,18,21
159:15 160:5	pursuant 137:3		reasons 157:10
188:11 208:6	137:6	155:6 167:15	182:16
210:22 211:4,13	put 144:24	177:9	recall 141:16
211:14 212:13	145:6 166:8	range 155:24	144:14 145:8
224:1,2 226:16	179:19 183:9	230:21	177:20 200:13
profit 211:2,22	214:3,21 219:20	rate 155:23	200:16,19
program 145:14	230:3	156:11 157:2	201:12 227:22
145:21,22 161:5	putting 141:15	166:13 167:13	227:24 228:13
193:12 199:14	212:14	167:18 177:2,6	234:18
200:3		222:20 230:19	recap 183:6
project 212:20	q	232:2,3	receipt 239:18
212:20,24	qsv 158:19	rd 164:3,4	receive 179:24
217:18,18 218:9	162:19 163:21	reaching 216:11	220:21
218:11,12	quality 158:19	read 151:17	received 155:22
220:16 222:12	159:6 161:2,21	212:7,8 220:17	170:8
222:13 223:9,16	question 161:7	221:23 224:7	receiving
223:19	174:7 175:3	225:4 226:6	147:18
projects 217:20	191:5 195:6	236:21 239:9	recess 178:10
221:5	218:21,21,23	241:5	181:11 189:21
	219:23 220:1,9	readily 210:13	
provide 156:20	220:10	reading 194:15	215:8 236:13
189:2 207:10	questions 174:3	209:6 217:3	recollection
provided	236:16,18	real 196:1	173:3
223:14	queue 180:18,21	214:11	record 142:1
provides 159:15	quick 179:1	realigned	169:24 173:16
208:1		203:10	205:23 219:7,21
		ral Calutions	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[record - right] Page 263

220.7 229.7	205.4	201.2 16 202.5	magmanga 160.16
220:7 238:7	205:4	201:2,16 203:5 230:16 234:6	response 169:16 191:20
recorded 142:20	regional 162:23		
records 164:3	163:2,7,8,10,14	236:2	responsibilities
reduction 207:5	163:20,22	reported 180:4	147:23
refer 158:21	regions 192:16	238:6	responsibility
187:22 209:21	192:18 198:16	reporter 138:22	166:18
220:24	198:22 204:10	230:2 236:19	responsible
referenced	register 165:5	238:5,12	150:22 156:16
239:6	165:12 195:20	reporting	156:18,19
referred 210:14	regular 157:22	136:21 138:21	158:16 170:24
referring	158:3 161:15	138:22 147:18	result 144:2
160:12 209:17	164:6 207:6	152:13 183:24	162:8,12,13
221:21	217:19	200:14 238:12	187:9
refers 193:12	relate 194:16	238:15	resulting 165:2
reflect 188:15	related 147:19	represent 167:3	results 141:24
213:14 226:15	216:21 218:12	represented	141:24 143:11
230:11 231:2	222:10 238:8	224:16	152:14 160:2
reflected 184:8	relates 171:23	reproduction	171:8 176:11
184:13 195:20	206:14	238:15	195:19
224:13	remediation	request 154:17	retails 224:16
reflective	155:16 156:19	required 197:3	return 239:13
212:13	remember	241:13	239:17
reformulated	179:15,17	requirements	review 143:16
211:13	remodel 220:21	158:23	153:16,21
refresh 173:3	repeat 195:5	reserved 137:13	207:16 239:7
194:4 215:21	rephrase 163:17	resets 185:3,23	reviewing
217:8	replicate 206:24	resetting 208:3	234:16
refreshing	report 139:9,11	resides 159:23	revision 224:14
181:5 189:16	139:22 143:18	229:1	richmond
region 190:4,7,9	143:24 144:4,5	resolved 226:17	138:13
190:10,12	144:7,10,19	resources 149:4	ridiculous 181:7
194:13,15,17,22	167:5 172:14,19	respond 227:2	right 140:6
198:9,12,20	177:13 180:6	responded	146:22 151:3,6
199:2,9 201:17	196:17 198:6	227:7	151:10,14
204:5,12,19,22	199:23 200:2,21		153:15 154:22

Veritext Legal Solutions 800-726-7007

[right - send] Page 264

159:21 162:9	rotationally	scanning 214:22	179:5,9 180:16
164:20 165:6	164:8	scans 170:23	180:20 181:17
166:9 167:3	route 167:6	scenario 223:15	181:20 182:17
172:13 173:7	routed 171:22	schematic	183:1 184:16
174:24 175:15	row 182:12	208:17,20	185:1,4,8
176:7 178:15	188:1	school 191:6	188:18 189:15
181:22 183:15	rtaylor 239:2	schroon 167:6	189:19 190:9
188:12 189:8,16	rules 137:7	science 148:17	192:4,10 193:23
193:7 195:5	S	186:14	194:1 197:18,20
196:13,20 197:4	s 138:1,7 156:20	scott 229:8,9	197:22 198:18
203:3,20 204:24	240:3	scrapping	199:7,10 204:9
209:7 210:24	safeguard 159:6	232:19	204:17 205:18
211:21 212:7,8	saith 237:1	screen 182:18	206:12 207:17
213:11 215:11	sales 208:7	199:6,14	209:3,8 210:3
223:6 225:14,16	sampled 157:16	scroll 235:4	214:6 216:1,14
225:22 227:4,19	159:15	scv 158:21	216:17 221:18
228:7 229:20	savaloja 136:15	162:19	225:2 226:24
230:24 231:22	137:1 139:3	season 217:19	227:5,6 235:15
232:12,13,17	140:1 239:5	second 147:22	235:17
233:9 234:12	240:2,24 241:2	164:12,19 175:7	seeing 209:12
235:8,11 236:15	241:4,12	199:5 224:7	212:10
236:17	saying 213:10	sections 207:7	seems 232:9
risk 212:15	217:22 232:20	see 150:9,10,14	seen 147:6
224:18	says 169:1,11	150:15 151:6	149:17,22
role 143:3,21	174:23 185:12	153:24 154:2,19	152:12,18
149:22 153:9	194:11,13,14	154:23 155:3,4	153:14 159:12
154:9 155:20	234:6	155:7,8 157:15	160:2,23,24
156:5,22,23	scale 207:12	157:18 159:20	210:9,16 230:9
164:3,9 179:21	scan 141:9	164:18,20 165:1	231:14,24,24
182:16 192:5,6	153:3,5,6	166:3,20 167:7	232:8
rolled 201:19,23	175:21,24	167:10,15 169:1	selected 154:20
room 207:1	176:22	170:11,12 171:3	send 153:3,4,5,6
rotation 163:5	scanned 142:7	172:11,16,17,22	171:15,17
rotational 163:4	156:17	172:24 173:5	174:19 176:22
163:5		177:15,18 178:3	214:16

Veritext Legal Solutions

[senior - spending]

Page 265

	10440	• • • • •	10110000000
senior 143:4	shelves 184:13	situation 217:4	194:19,23 225:8
154:16 180:3	shift 193:12	217:23 218:3	228:3
192:3	shoot 165:20	sk 185:11	sort 142:22
sense 156:10	207:15 229:21	skills 238:7	143:9 148:3
184:5 231:16,16	short 147:12,14	skip 215:13,14	149:18 158:10
sent 156:17	188:19 195:14	skipped 139:18	170:1 182:16
170:12 171:8,19	shortly 175:14	sku 188:10,11	206:19
183:20 223:1	shot 199:6,14	214:17	sound 151:10
239:14	show 165:17	skus 182:11,12	171:16 228:7
sentence 198:8	showing 148:3	185:2,19 187:21	236:9
209:4 221:18	shown 158:11	slash 148:17	sounds 146:19
224:7,9 225:5,8	shows 165:3	small 188:22	215:7 236:10,11
separate 188:17	172:3 186:8	203:8,12	southern 136:1
separated	192:22,24 197:5	smith 190:3,3,4	spa 188:14,18
204:15	202:21 203:2,13	197:16	188:23
service 224:19	shut 220:1,6	smooth 182:21	space 188:19,19
services 238:17	232:20	182:23	207:5
set 222:5	sign 154:16	software 190:15	speak 144:4
sets 144:1	236:21 239:12	199:13	218:17
177:13 199:6	signature	sold 211:3	speaking 174:7
several 209:21	137:10 156:21	solution 213:20	speaks 218:16
222:3 224:15	216:10 225:21	214:3,4,7,8,9	specific 144:10
severally 136:10	237:2 238:19	solutions 146:3	171:6 185:18
share 145:21	signed 239:20	146:12 214:6	187:10 206:18
shared 205:6	similar 179:18	239:23	218:11 224:22
sheer 209:22	similarly 136:5	solve 146:2	specifically
sheet 139:8	simply 207:4	212:18 214:14	152:9 153:19,21
239:11	single 145:9	215:3	160:17 171:2
shelby 238:3	sir 149:13 159:1	solved 214:15	specifics 144:5
shelf 141:4	190:8	227:15	185:15
157:7,17 164:23	sitting 143:8,15	somebody 181:6	speculating
165:12 177:17	149:7 155:19,21	sop 153:2	228:10
195:21 208:20	227:8,13	sorry 146:17,17	spending
210:1 212:23	situated 136:5	146:18,18 191:1	214:22
		191:24 192:1	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[spinning - sure] Page 266

	I		
spinning 178:14	212:4 219:12	223:14 224:11	successful
spoke 157:21	stating 226:3,11	227:2,6 230:17	206:21
160:4	sticker 229:23	230:22 231:19	sufficient 211:2
spoken 225:18	229:24	stores 141:6	suffolk 179:3
225:23	stickered	142:10,12	suggestion
spreadsheet	229:23	149:19 151:15	220:24
139:20 229:12	stock 211:9	153:2 156:12	suggests 191:2
230:3,5 234:11	stop 220:8	163:13 183:7	suite 138:4,7
stacey 170:9,14	store 140:8	184:17,21 185:1	sullivan 191:22
170:15,24	141:1,2,9,24,24	185:6,17,17,21	summarize
stamp 166:8	143:4 144:2,23	186:5,8,15,18	235:1
180:8 230:1,3	148:18,24 149:4	187:19 191:10	summer 182:3
stand 186:2,24	150:23 151:2,4	192:17 193:1	super 184:11
standard	151:7 152:17,20	194:4,9,14	189:3 230:4
167:24	154:15 155:1	195:2,7 196:3,6	supervised
stands 187:1,2	158:19,20 159:2	197:2 203:9,12	163:14
235:23	159:6 161:1,2	203:15 207:7,11	supervisor
start 142:13	161:14,14,21,22	210:22 217:5	162:22
158:22 210:4	161:23 162:13	218:12 224:9,18	supervisors
213:2	162:16 166:12	street 138:7,12	190:16 191:2
started 145:11	167:6 168:2	155:2 166:11	support 149:5
145:13,22	170:23 172:18	172:22	223:18 225:6
146:24 209:8,11	175:21,24	strips 208:16,20	229:2,6
starting 150:12	176:10,10,21	212:12,23	supporting
starts 210:2	182:19 183:23	213:12,13	183:5
221:19 224:9	184:1,9 187:9	214:13 220:21	supports 148:18
225:11,12	187:13 188:3	223:14 224:14	148:23
state 199:8	190:16 192:2,17	sub 188:1,7,9	supposed
201:16 212:9	196:6 197:22	subject 170:10	171:15 195:18
213:23 224:19	198:2 199:9,10	183:17 199:22	sure 159:19
238:2,5	201:9,18 205:5	submitted	162:17 171:11
stated 143:15	207:6 208:15	188:24 223:17	173:24 182:14
states 136:1	213:7 214:21	subscribed	198:16 206:3
149:19 150:11	216:12 220:20	241:14	212:17 231:21
184:21 198:9	220:22 223:11		
	1		

Veritext Legal Solutions

[surprise - things]

Page 267

surprise 206:19	209:10,13 220:8	226:2,9,19	210:18 235:10
suspect 236:9	taylor 138:11	227:11,20 228:8	testified 140:2
sustainable	140:12 142:4	228:20 231:4	199:24
146:3,12	143:1,13 145:4	232:4,22 233:3	testify 218:20
sworn 140:2	147:10 148:6,14	235:12 236:10	219:7,12,22
241:14	149:10 152:15	236:17 239:1	testimony
system 161:10	154:6 155:11	team 148:18,19	137:13 140:13
169:8 170:17,19	156:2,13 157:4	149:6 150:24	152:1 164:1
171:2 183:9	157:24 159:17	154:11 155:16	165:23 168:14
199:20	160:7 162:10,20	156:18 159:24	172:9 175:17
systemically	163:16,24	168:8 171:21	178:22 180:12
171:1 227:15	165:14 167:20	180:5 182:19	189:12 190:14
t	168:10,21 169:6	186:14 188:20	193:19 197:10
t 238:1,1 240:3	169:22 170:6	188:23 192:7	205:12 215:17
240:3	173:15,22 174:5	197:16 198:9	217:15 222:16
take 157:23	174:10,22 175:1	201:9 205:2,3	229:18 233:13
161:14 169:15	175:16 176:12	208:18 223:22	233:19 239:9,18
178:6,7 193:7	177:4 178:1,9	teams 214:19	241:8
196:5 208:13	181:2 184:14,22	technology	texas 136:9
215:5 219:16	189:6,20 190:23	191:12	thank 160:9
taken 137:2,6	191:4 192:20	tell 166:2 169:7	180:1 220:15
178:10 181:11	194:8,18,22	182:10 189:4,15	225:6 236:12
189:21 213:8	195:12,22	189:18 204:4	thankfully
215:8 236:13	196:21 198:3,23	220:6	212:18
takes 144:22	199:16 200:9,24	telling 143:23	thanks 173:21
180:21 208:15	201:7 202:19	201:24	theft 238:16
talk 161:19	203:23 205:14	tennessee	theory 184:13
169:24 236:8	205:22 208:8	138:23 238:2,6	thing 165:10
talked 145:1	209:15 210:10	238:12,16,21	168:21 169:8
170:21 200:4	211:5,23 215:24	termination	176:19 178:14
206:17 208:14	217:1,14 218:6	162:9,12,14	184:9 187:23
214:9 217:17	218:19 219:1,6	terms 137:7	233:7
talking 141:20	219:20 220:5,10	141:24 144:7	things 159:21
146:20 160:10	221:2 222:22	145:24 147:9	169:8 170:4
160:17 197:16	223:4 224:23	161:19 162:19	211:9 217:24

Veritext Legal Solutions

[things - unacceptable]

Page 268

236:7,20	180:4 183:10	177:1 205:5	219:24 235:4
think 140:13	190:20 191:7,14	222:9 223:22	tuesday 145:11
144:14 149:24	192:3 193:8	top 198:8 234:6	181:19 183:8,16
151:11,22	195:1 197:24	total 197:1	183:17 184:6,9
160:10 161:7	199:3 200:7,17	towards 177:14	184:11,17,18
171:11,16	201:10 202:3,17	town 196:4	189:3 193:1,6
173:10 175:3	203:5,9,11,16	tracking 156:16	193:11 195:8
181:8,16 194:9	204:11 209:7,11	156:22	197:3,17 224:12
194:10 196:16	209:19 213:11	transcript 238:7	tuesdays 193:7
217:22 219:21	214:12,22	238:14 239:6,20	193:10 195:19
229:21 230:5	218:19 220:13	241:5,8	196:20
233:23 235:20	223:23 227:22	transcripts	turn 220:12
thinking 147:1	229:14 239:19	239:15	turning 152:5
third 151:7	timeframe	transfer 238:16	166:5,21
207:20 208:1	239:8	travel 163:4	twirling 189:23
229:3	timely 190:18	traveling 163:8	two 142:10
thought 169:14	194:5 195:9,17	164:6	154:15 158:24
175:23 190:14	196:19	treasure 187:6	174:16 175:4
236:4	times 145:7	206:20 207:10	214:6
thousand 195:2	209:22	trend 156:23	type 152:22
thousands	title 230:15,16	198:17	161:9 176:19
141:21	tn 136:22 138:8	trent 138:11	186:11,15
thread 169:18	today 143:8,15	174:4 189:18	196:17 211:15
threshold 161:3	149:7 155:19	193:24 206:6	235:21
161:4,6	166:23 227:8,13	215:23 218:24	types 152:18,23
throw 232:20	together 141:15	219:3,10,24	153:10
tied 161:6	told 140:8	232:19 233:8	typically 144:17
time 141:7,14	141:23 175:23	239:1	159:20,20
147:14 151:15	tomorrow	tried 220:13	163:22 180:19
152:17 154:8	184:17	true 238:7 241:8	217:20
156:9 158:2,4,4	toner 196:2	try 180:24	u
159:2,4 165:8	took 143:11	215:22	u.s. 138:4
167:6 170:15,24	146:4 154:24	trying 163:19	u.s. 136.4 uh 191:20
173:21,23	159:9 167:9	168:24 169:9	
175:13 176:6	174:15 175:14	196:10 197:12	unacceptable 194:6

Veritext Legal Solutions

[unauthorized - webb]

Page 269

unauthorized	use 207:23	versus 202:3,3	walk 183:12
238:15	used 232:15	232:2	212:3
under 204:16	239:20	vice 229:5	wall 187:7
220:16 225:14	using 192:13	violation 139:12	want 157:6
225:16 229:1	236:2	150:8 179:8	173:16,24 174:7
understand	usually 232:12	232:13 234:24	189:18 214:20
140:24 159:19	utah 150:12	238:16	218:21
181:23 183:11	utilize 153:2	violations	wanted 140:6
221:4,11 230:13	V	151:16 153:11	141:5 144:10,11
230:20,21		159:23 170:16	wants 219:4
234:17 235:6,20	v 136:7 239:4	170:19 232:7,8	warehouses
understood	240:1 241:1	235:2	211:12
157:1 190:18	variations	virginia 138:13	warn 229:11
222:15,18	224:17	visibility 156:5	water 149:14
undertook	variety 176:15 various 145:7	visible 180:22	way 142:16
187:5	157:10 192:18	visit 158:19,21	151:12 168:16
unfolded 210:12	vary 235:11,16	159:3,7 161:1,2	172:11 173:4
210:15	varying 235:18	161:9,21,22	176:14 179:19
unfolding	varying 233.18 vendor 207:20	162:3 163:7	191:6 192:7,11
214:11	208:1 211:7,8	231:19	201:17 206:5
united 136:1	212:24 229:3	visits 163:13,21	210:3 214:15
184:21	vendors 208:18	164:3,4	217:21 219:4,8
universal	209:24 211:10	vitamins 164:18	219:9 227:9
235:23	211:17	177:16	231:23 232:21
unlabel 230:1	verbally 179:23	volume 136:18	233:22 234:20
unprecedented	verbiage 185:4	239:5 240:2,24	238:9
209:19 223:24	verify 143:10	241:2,4,12	ways 142:10
unsure 221:6	239:9	W	153:1
upc 235:22,23	veritext 136:21	wait 174:8	we've 144:22
235:24	138:22 238:20	waiting 166:10	145:2 146:12
updates 188:21	239:14,23	178:14 194:3	167:23,23
upstream	veritext.com	234:4	172:20 173:3,13
214:24	239:15	waived 137:10	203:10 214:9
urban 186:12	version 207:3,4	237:2	webb 138:22
	7.51511 207.5,1		238:5,19
		ral Solutions	

Veritext Legal Solutions

[week - zones] Page 270

week 140:7,10	189:12,18	wow 214:12	194:24
140:15,18,20,22	193:19,24	wrap 233:2	york 136:1,8
140:23 144:2	194:20,24	236:9	151:7 152:12
145:12,12	197:10,12	wrapped 223:16	155:2 167:7
172:15 175:20	205:12 206:8	wrong 194:16	170:11 172:1,22
175:24 176:2,3	215:7,17,23	222:17	190:5,7 192:8
188:24 202:2,6	218:20 219:8,22	X	192:15,24 194:4
202:6,8,9,11,14	229:18 233:7,13	x 139:1 207:6	195:7 198:12
203:14 220:16	233:19 236:11		202:16 203:7,9
weekly 185:2,19	236:16 239:8,10	y	235:2
212:10 224:12	239:12,19	yeah 147:24	Z
weeks 182:22	wolf 136:4,4	158:15 163:19	zone 185:4
202:10,11 212:6	239:4 240:1	169:14 170:2,6	186:4,9,17,19
212:19 213:2,6	241:1	171:3 173:10,12	186:22 187:10
216:23 222:4	wonder 231:16	174:14 180:22	187:11,14,15,16
223:3,18 224:15	wondering	184:5 192:14	187:21,22,22
weighing	142:18 152:10	194:20,21	188:5 223:18
204:23	woods 138:12	197:12 201:2	zones 186:15
weight 154:21	172:3	203:1 204:8	187:13
167:4	words 228:18	206:3 209:21	107.13
weights 152:11	work 146:2,4	214:12 218:15	
235:21	183:4,4 207:21	218:22 231:11	
went 201:10	208:2 211:11	235:6 236:4	
214:17	213:2 228:17	year 140:8	
wheel 152:5	231:23 238:15	143:12 146:14	
166:4,20	worked 229:23	147:1,3,14	
wide 140:8	working 142:13	150:8 151:15	
144:23	152:21 221:9	161:20 201:6	
wife 204:14	workload	209:17 210:1,12	
wise 142:20	181:19 182:18	210:13 227:24	
witness 137:10	182:20 183:18	years 213:3	
152:1 165:23	workloads	232:8	
168:14 172:9	181:24	yellow 188:6	
178:22 180:12	worst 232:13	yep 164:21,22	
181:1,3,8,13		173:22 178:9	

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure Rule 30

- (e) Review By the Witness; Changes.
- (1) Review; Statement of Changes. On request by the deponent or a party before the deposition is completed, the deponent must be allowed 30 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available in which:
- (A) to review the transcript or recording; and
- (B) if there are changes in form or substance, to sign a statement listing the changes and the reasons for making them.
- (2) Changes Indicated in the Officer's Certificate. The officer must note in the certificate prescribed by Rule 30(f)(1) whether a review was requested and, if so, must attach any changes the deponent makes during the 30-day period.

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ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,

2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE FEDERAL RULES

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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